

---

**The Impact of Oil Theft and Pipeline Vandalism: The Experience of the Residents of Abule-Egba in Lagos State**

**Israel Esther Ohiseghame**

Center for Foundation Education, Bells University of Technology

**Israel Olajide Afelemo**

Teslah Limited, Lagos

---

**Citation:** Ohiseghame I E. and Afelemo I.O. (2022) The Impact of Oil Theft and Pipeline Vandalism: The Experience of the Residents of Abule-Egba in Lagos State, *International Journal of Physical and Human Geography*, Vol.10, No.1, pp.48-60

---

**ABSTRACT:** *This paper looks at the experience of people living close to pipeline in Abuleegba. Both qualitative and quantitative method was used. Questionnaire was administered to 100 respondents in the pipeline area in Abuleegba, 92 were returned. In-depth interview was also conducted with victims of Abuleegba pipeline explosion. The study discusses the different factors interacting together to sustain vandalism and oil siphoning in the area. These factors include alliance between oil workers and oil thieves, corruption, lack of proper monitoring of pipelines and poverty among others. Apart from this, the study also identifies the effects of the explosion that occurred in January 2020 on the people living in the area. The study revealed that before the explosion people were already living in fear before the inferno. The explosion which occurred late evening claimed the lives of many people in the environment especially those who sleep in the trailers parked along the pipeline. A number of houses were burnt leaving many homeless and without anything to fall back on. For many their means of livelihood was taking away by the inferno. The study therefore recommends that government should prioritize the security of people living in the pipeline area by constantly monitoring the pipelines as well as respond quickly to reports on pipeline vandalism by the community. The pipeline road should also be tarred and better security system has to be put in place to limit pipeline vandalism in the area.*

**KEY WORDS:** pipeline vandalism, oil theft, explosion, pipeline, Abuleegba.

---

## **INTRODUCTION**

In recent times the numerous explosions of oil pipelines due to illegal oil theft and bunkering has left many homeless, hopeless, handicapped and even dead. Some people suddenly wake up into the fiery fire caused by the explosion. Many would have thought it was a dream until they either found themselves on hospital beds with excruciating pains or standing by the grave of a loved one. The stories of pipeline explosion in Niger Delta have drawn the attention of many in the academia and those in the business world. However, what goes on in non-oil producing areas

where pipelines are domiciled is also very important. Lagos, though not an oil producing state has recorded fatal incidence of fire outbreaks due to breakages of oil pipelines laid in some parts in the state. Oil theft through pipeline vandalism is a serious source of concern as it is a threat to life, property and the environment. Adeoye, (2015) puts it that vandalizing oil pipelines is a flourishing business in a floundering economy and the nation is losing a lot from these illicit activities. Annually Nigeria loses about \$6B crude to oil theft and pipeline vandals (This Day, 2013). The human loss is also high that many deaths are beyond what is reported. Most times when the oil thieves are done with syphoning fuel they leave it improperly locked or even forget to lock it. Then it will flow with pressure polluting the environment while putting the lives and property of people at risk. When the oil pipeline catches fire the vandals may get burnt if not fortunate but the community pays heavily for it. The question that comes to the mind of an average thinking person is why is there a continuous oil theft when it is a venture with so much risk? Attempts to reduce or curb this illicit activity has remained an unending cry of lamentation as the nation seems to lack the political will to put a limit to oil thieves and pipeline vandals.

### **Statement of the Problem**

In Nigeria, the rate at which pipelines are being vandalized is alarming and the devastating effects on people living around the pipeline are more worrisome. A number of families have been dislocated; individuals have been ripped of their life savings and investment leaving them with no means of survival. Some people in the environment have either lost neighbour, child, wife or husband due to the incessant operation of oil thieves and pipeline vandals. The research therefore explores the causes and consequence of pipeline vandalism and the experience of residents before and after the explosion.

### **Research questions**

The research is guided by these research questions

1. What are the causes of pipeline vandalism and stealing of oil?
2. What are the effects of the pipeline vandalism on the people living in Abule Egba Lagos?

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

Oil is a major resource widely considered influential and the most important for the economic and political well-being of many nations (Yeeles and Akporiaye, 2016; Aroh, et al 2010). Hence oil is a major discovery in Nigeria. Nigeria crude oil discovery dates back to 1956 and by 1958 about twelve areas of large oil deposits were found (Njoku, 2016). Nigeria ranks high among the oil producing countries and it is in fact highest oil producer in Africa and the eleventh largest producer of crude oil in the World (Nriagu, Udofia, Ekong and Ebuk, 2016). Interestingly more than 90% of Nigeria foreign exchange is from the oil sector (Umar and Othman, 2017). This makes it one of the nations whose economy depends on oil. These countries include but not limited to Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Libya, Venezuela, Kuwait and Iran. A considerable amount of literature has been published on the propensity of countries whose mainstay of economy is oil

hence preoccupied with different types of crime. Okolie, (2019) thus noted that though the oil sector have adequately been the mainstay of Nigeria's economy, it has in irony "has doubled as a centre for the primitive accumulation of wealth as well as a platform for petro-rentier crimes". Such is the experiences of Nigeria, Ghana, Thailand, Morocco, Uganda, Mozambique, Mexico Azerbaijan, Turkey, and the European Union.

In no distant time, after the discovery of oil, the areas of derivation of oil were engulfed with violent conflicts between and among oil producing ethnic groups and subsequently between oil companies and the inhabitant of the Niger delta region. The incessant socio-political unrest started in the 1990s and has been sustained and these conflicts include Ogoni (1992-1993), Warri (1997 and the militant movements) (Yeeles and Akporie, 2016). One of the first agitations of the Niger delta was for a better environment and later for resource control and or fair share of the nation's wealth which is derived from that region. At the heart of this various challenges facing this oil sector is the wake of militancy in the area.

What characterized the activity of this militants was pipeline vandalism, and stealing of oil. This illicit activity enriched the militants and it made pipeline vandalism and oil theft a lucrative business. This has been till date a source of huge loss for the Nigerian economy. Because of this huge loss to the economy of Nigeria, Shell Nigeria stated that stakeholders should Munster all efforts to control the continuous vandalism of pipelines because of its attendant effects (Odugbesan, 2019). The Niger delta regions are not the only areas facing this problem but most areas where there are pipelines conveying oil. This include, Arepo, Abuleegba/Awori, Festac etc

### **Pipeline Vandalism, Oil theft and oil bunkering.**

Any act of vandalism that involves a deliberate act of destroying private or public property (Sanusi et al, 2016). Hence Pipeline vandalism is a deliberate and illegal act of breaking oil pipelines (Adishi, (2017) describes it as an intentional acts of vandalizing oil pipelines platform loading barge as a result of selfishness or sabotage. Oil bunkering, oil theft and pipeline vandalism is the act of hacking or drilling into pipelines with the purpose of stealing products for self-use or sales to other persons (Okolie, 2019; Sanusi et al, 2016). Adishi, (2017), opined that pipeline vandalism, oil theft, illegal bunkering is used interchangeably because one of the acts may lead to another. It involves siphoning of crude oil or refined oil to sell in black market and it is regarded as sabotage within Nigeria context (Onucha 2010). Akpan, et al, (2020) quoting Mallam Mele Kyari, the director of NNPC stated that there has been about 45,347 breaking of NNPC pipeline between 2001 and half of 2019. In recent times stakeholders in the oil sector have raised concerns that oil theft and sabotage is threatening the oil sector (Yeeles and Akporie, 2016). Oil Pipelines that are punctured can be highly vulnerable to fires and explosions which can be triggered by gunfire, dynamite or cigarette (Carson, et al 2015). This authors also noted that the most common source of oil leakages is intentional act, either from theft or vandalism. Quite a number of fire explosions in Lagos occur when the vandals leave a pipeline improperly covered either because they are not yet experts or because they want their next

operation to be faster. Most times when these oil pipelines are left uncovered, it flows and the poor quickly want to scoop the oil for sale or for use. Onucha is of the opinion that the continuous pipeline vandalism is a pointer to the fact that this criminal activity are carried out by rich barons (Onucha, 2010). These 'well to dos' with impunity carry out their illicit act undermining the security of lives, property and the environment. Njoku Identifies the following as reasons for pipeline vandalism in Nigeria: poverty, corruption and sabotage of the oil sector, high rate of unemployment, international dimension of pipeline vandalism, illegal refineries, Oil and gas pipeline insecurity resource control, Frosty relationship between oil producing community and oil companies (Njoku, 2016). It is also pertinent to note that the congestions and lack of proper planning of some of the areas that nestles these pipelines also increases the vulnerability of these areas to vandalism which results to high loss of lives and property in the advent of a fire outbreak.

### **Consequences of pipeline vandalism**

Pipeline vandalism, oil theft and bunkering are a source of huge loss to the country. Adishi reported that in February, 2016 the NNPC noted it had incurred N24.23 billion operational deficits and by March 2016, it recorded a loss of N18.89 billion.

Pipeline vandalism has been a source of untold hardship for thousands of people not only in oil producing areas but also for people living around pipelines. It is a source of palpable fear, air pollution and contamination of portable water. For Onucha the activities of oil pipeline vandals is a threat to human security as it affects every sphere of life linked with survival- it destroys the means of livelihood, threatens human rights to safety and life, source of internal displacement and family dislocation/displacement (Onucha, 2010). When people have their bath with water polluted by oil, it can cause skin irritation (Aroh 2010). Quite a number of families have had their breadwinner burnt or permanently disabled as a result of pipeline explosions leading to fires. In the incident in Abule-Egba in 2006, many who were victims were those who went to scoop oil on seeing the outpour of oil with much pressure. It was reported that people who were at the center of the pipes that were leaking were all totally burnt and given mass burial (Fadeyibi, Omosebi, and Ademiluyi, 2009). These authors also accounted that about 385 burn patients (males) were involved in the inferno of which 295 were totally burnt. Also in May, 2006 in Ilado, Lagos Island an explosion led to the incineration of over 200 people (Aroh, et al, 2010). Another incident occurred in December, 2018, people when residents were jolted from their sleep as an inferno occurred as a result of the siphoning of oil in Abule-Egba/Awori which burnt 100 buses and 50 cars (Ojewale, 2019). One of the most recent pipeline explosions is that of 2020 January 21<sup>st</sup> fire erupted on pipeline road that links Ile Epo /Ekoru junction Abuleegba after the oil vandals left the pipeline running after their operation. It was recorded that about 150 residents were displaced, 39 vehicles, 11 trucks carrying 40 feet containers and 30 buildings were affected by the fire (Akpan, et al 2020). According to Lagos State Emergency Management (LASEMA) three hundred displaced victims were housed and discharged from the state relief camp (Daily Trust, 2020). Many communities who have been affected by the activities of oil

thieves claim to have reported to appropriate authorities but the issues have remained unattended to. This is the case of the last explosion in Abule-Egba I January 2020. A resident who was a victim lamented that:

"We have written series of petitions to the management of NNPC in Abuja, Mosimi, Ogun State and Ejigbo, Lagos, all to no avail." (Akpan, et al 2020)

The criminals see the venture as a lucrative one regardless of the risks involved and the aftermath fatality if the operation goes wrong. Since no serious punishment by the government to deter the doers. Onucha emphasize the fact that since the offence is that which grants bail, the rich who have been reported to be mostly involved can always find their ways out of the hands of the law (Oucha, 2010). More so if there seems to be no serious punishment for most offenders –the best most apprehended vandals have gotten is a display in the electronic and print media

## METHODOLOGY

This study adopts both quantitative and qualitative research methods. The respondents were drawn from those living around the pipeline in Abulegba. The questionnaire was administered to respondents through purposive sampling. 30 In-depth interviews were also held with victims of pipeline explosions. The quantitative data was analyzed descriptively while qualitative data was analyzed thematically. About 100 copies of a questionnaire were given out but only 92 were retrieved due to Covid 19 protocols. Data was collected between May 2020 to January 2021

Inclusion criteria are:

1. Respondents must be living around the pipeline in Abule Egba
2. Respondents must have witnessed or be a victim of the pipeline explosion.

## RESULT AND INTERPRETATION

Table 1

Distribution of respondents by age					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
	18-25	33	35.9	35.9	35.9
	26-35	23	25.0	25.0	60.9
	36-45	16	17.4	17.4	78.3
	46-55	11	12.0	12.0	90.2
	56--65	6	6.5	6.5	96.7
	66 AND ABOVE	3	3.3	3.3	100.0
	Total	92	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey, (2021)

Table 1 above showed the age distribution of respondents in which 33 fell within age 18-25 years representing 35.9%, while for ages 26-35 they were 23 which accounts for 25.0%. For ages 36-45 years they were 16 (17.4%). Those within the age range 46-55 were 11 (12.0%). Those between age 56-65 were 6(6.5%) and those above 66 years old were just 3(3.3%)

Table 2

Distribution of respondents by gender					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
	Male	36	39.1	39.1	39.1
	Female	56	60.9	60.9	100.0
	Total	92	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey, (2021)

Table 2 showed that 36 were male representing 39.1% and females were 56%

Table 3

Distribution of respondents by marital status					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
	Married	55	59.8	59.8	59.8
	Unmarried	34	37.0	37.0	96.7
	Widow	3	3.3	3.3	100.0
	Total	92	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey, (2021)

The above table showed that 55 respondents were married and represented 59.8% and 34 respondents were unmarried (37%) while 3 respondents were widows (3.3%).

### Experiences of respondents before the explosion

Table 4

Experiences of residents before the explosion	Yes	No	Don't know	Total
Afraid that the pipeline could catch fire	85(92.4%)	5(5.4%)	2(2.2%)	92(100%)
Fear of getting burnt	67(72.8%)	24(26.1%)	1(1.1%)	92(100%)
Fear of property getting destroyed	67(72.8%)	23(25.0%)	2(2.2%)	92(100%)
Vandals might hurt him if they reported	68(73.9%)	19(20.7%)	5(5.4%)	92(100%)
Inability to sleep	70(76.1%)	20(21.7%)	2(2.2%)	92(100%)
Source of psychological stress	83(90.2%)	9(9.8%)	0(0%)	92(100%)
Feeling sick	73(79.3%)	16(17.4%)	3(3.3%)	92(100%)
Affecting breathing	90(97.8%)	2(2.2%)	0(0%)	92(100%)

Source: Field Survey, (2021)

Table 4 shows the experiences of residents before the explosion occurred respondents who were afraid that the pipeline could catch fire anytime the oil thieves came were 92.4%. Those who were afraid their property could get burnt were 72.8% while 73.9% stated that they were afraid that the vandals might hurt them if they report. Respondents were also asked if this illicit activity of the oil vandals affected their ability to sleep and 76.1% answered 'yes'. Those stated they had psychological stress were 90.2% while 97.8% respondents were of the opinion that the activities of oil thieves made them sick. 97.8% respondent said it affected their breathing.

### Causes of pipeline vandalism and oil theft

**Table 4**

Factors sustaining pipeline vandalism	Unsure	Don't know	Strongly agree	Agree	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Total
inadequate Laws	9(9.8%)	1(1.1%)	51(55.4%)	18(19.6)	4(4.3%)	9(9.8%)	92(100%)
Corruption	2(2.2%)	0(0%)	69(75.0%)	19(20.7%)	1(1.1%)	1(1.1%)	92(100%)
lack of adequate technology	2(2.2%)	0(0%)	67(72.8%)	19(20.7%)	1(1.1%)	3(3.3%)	92(100%)
lack of monitoring	1(1.1%)	0(0%)	66(71.7%)	22(23.9%)	2(2.2%)	1(1.1%)	92(100%)
Lack of good governance	0(0%)	0(0%)	71(77.2%)	20(21.7%)	1(1.1%)	0(0%)	92(100%)
Poverty	0(0%)	0(0%)	45(48.9%)	11(12.0%)	16(17.4%)	20(21.7%)	92(100%)
Greed/desire to get rich quick	0(0%)	1(1.1%)	46(50.0%)	14(15.2%)	12(13.0%)	19(20.7%)	92(100%)
Alliance between oil workers and vandals	0(0%)	1(1.1%)	67(72.8%)	19(20.7%)	1(1.1%)	4(4.3%)	92(100%)
Alliance between landlord and vandals	3(3.3%)	0(0%)	65(70.7%)	20(21.7%)	2(2.2%)	2(2.2%)	92(100%)
Lack of digitalized security	3(3.3%)	0(0%)	60(65.2%)	22(23.9%)	5(5.4%)	2(2.2%)	92(100%)
Lack of community vigilante	2(2.2%)	0(0%)	54(58.7%)	19(20.7%)	7(7.6%)	10(10.9%)	92(100%)
Lack of patriotism	0(0%)	1(1.1%)	65(70.7%)	19(20.7%)	4(4.3%)	3(3.3%)	92(100%)

Source: Field Survey, (2021)

The result from the survey showed as shown in table 5 indicate that inadequate laws and regulation is a factor still sustaining pipeline vandalism since 75.0% either strongly agree or agree while 14.1% respondents strongly disagree or disagree to this as a factor sustaining oil stealing. Other factors agreed (strongly agree/agree) as factors sustaining pipeline vandalism and oil theft were: Lack of proper monitoring 95.6 %, lack of good governance 98.7%, poverty 61.1%, desire to get rich quick 65.2%, alliance between oil workers, security agents and oil thieves 93.5%, alliance between oil thieves and landlords 92.7%, lack of digitalized security for the oil pipeline 89.1%, lack of community based vigilante 79.4% and lack of patriotism 91.4%..

**Effects of pipeline vandalism****Table 5**

Effects of pipeline vandalism	Unsure	Don't know	Strongly Agree	Agree	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Total
Loss of lives	10(10.9%)	12(13.0%)	54(58.8%)	16(17.4%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	92(100%)
health problems	3(3.3%)	2(2.2%)	65(70.7%)	22(23.9%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	92(100%)
loss of money and live investment	0(0%)	2(2.2%)	72(78.3%)	18(19.6%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	92(100%)
Family dislocation/displacement	0(0%)	2(2.2%)	70(76.1%)	19(20.1%)	0(0%)	1(1.1%)	92(100%)
Source of insecurity	0(0%)	0(0%)	66(71.7%)	25(27.2%)	0(0%)	1(1.1%)	92(100%)
Air pollution	0(0%)	0(0%)	73(79.3%)	19(20.7%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	92(100%)
Water Pollution	0(0%)	1(1.1%)	72(78.3%)	17(18.5%)	2(2.2%)	0(0%)	92(100%)
Fears	0(0%)	0(0%)	74(80.4%)	18(19.6%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	92(100%)

Source: Field Survey, (2021)

The result from the survey showed that pipeline vandalism is a serious problem affecting people living close to pipeline because these factors were agreed on as the effects of pipeline vandalism and oil theft: loss of lives 76.1%, health consequences 94.6%, loss of money, goods, property and investments 97.9%, family dislocation/displacement 96.8%, Source of insecurity for the family 98.9%, water pollution and seepage 96.8%, insecurity in the community 98.9%.

**Table 6 : Responses after the explosion**

	Yes	No	Don't know	Total
Did the explosion discourage the oil vandals from coming back ?	15(16.3%)	73(79.3%)	4(4.3%)	92(100)
Did the vandals still come after the explosion?	49(53.3%)	38(41.3%)	5(5.4%)	92(100)
Has better security been put in place?	41(44.6)	48(52.2%)	3(3.3)	92(100)

Source: Field Survey, (2021)



Respondents were asked if the oil thieves were discouraged from coming since after the explosion: 79.3% answered No, while 53.3% stated that the vandals were still coming after the explosion and 52% stated that no better security had been provided by the government since after the explosion.

**Respondent were also asked if the explosion could have been avoided.**

Table 7

	Yes	No	Don't know	Total
Could the explosion have been avoided if there was early response	89(96.7%)	1(1.1%)	2(2.2%)	92(100%)

Source: Field Survey, (2021)

The above table showed that residents were of the opinion that the explosion could have been avoided if stakeholders responded in time.

The interview conducted also showed that before the explosion, there was palpable fear in the community. Respondents recounted their ordeal each time the vandals come. For example a respondent stated thus “almost every night the oil thieves come we can't sleep because my house is like three minutes' walk before the pipeline. They will be shouting to load as they come with plenty of tankers to load fuel. They come armed and no one dares come out. Apart from this one can't even breathe because of the choking smell of the fuel”

Another respondent said that “we were always afraid that it would explode because sometimes when they come they leave it open and the fuel would be gushing out like flood and the whole area will be smelling” A respondent also stated that “many times before the explosion we have had to run out of the house to sleep elsewhere because we were afraid it could catch fire and we get burnt or all our belongings get destroyed” another respondent stated thus: “We can't come out because the vandals might hurt or kill anyone challenging them. That was how a young man was killed there beside the pipeline not too long ago. We have vigilante group but they can't do anything, because they have been bribed and threatened to cooperate, even some of the landlords have been bribed too so they can't do anything to stop them”

On the factors sustaining this illicit act a respondent stated thus: “the government is not willing to do anything about it. We have reported many times even it has been taken to the national assembly but nothing has been done. See everywhere burnt down, many people have died, some injured and in the hospital, property lost but all this could have been averted if we have responsive and responsible government”

Many of those interviewed stated that poverty was not a cause of pipeline vandalism. A respondent stated that: "...how can poverty be the cause of it. This people are the rich, a poor man cannot have access to the weapons and security agents they come with to steal. They have many tankers. This is serious wickedness against us in this area". Another reiterated thus: "They even came many times after the explosion and this shows how heartless they are. It is because they are crazy, greedy and want quick wealth"

On the consequence of the explosion, a widow narrated her ordeal thus: "I was sleeping when the explosion happened, the house before and after mine was burnt down, a woman and two children was burnt in front of the house. It was God that saved me" She continued and said "Right now business is not moving for me, people have moved out of the community and most people don't even want to rent apartment around here anymore. My water is no longer suitable for cooking, drinking and bathing because fuel is seeping inside the well and I have complained but no one is doing anything about it".

Another respondent said how her land lady's son was burnt down. A respondent recounted thus: It was my God that saved me and my two children on that fateful day as we all would have been burnt. I went to where I used to sell and was packing that evening so I called my children to help me. That was when we heard the explosion and people running, and everywhere was in flames. We had to run and by the following day when we came around our house all our things were burnt and our house with the landlord and his two children were also burnt death by the fire. We have no place to lay our heads now".

Another respondent also said thus "many mechanics that sleep in the trailers packed along the pipeline also lost their lives as it was late evening when people were already retiring to bed when the explosion occurred"

Another respondent said "we could not breathe when it happened; I even fainted as we were running when the air pollution was too much" Another said' my mother got missing as there was pandemonium. Another respondent whose husband owns a hospital also recounted how part of the hospital building was burnt. A widow also recounted her experience and said that part of her house was destroyed and it cost a lot to put the house back.

## **DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS**

This study looked at the experience of the victims of the pipeline explosion in Abule egba. It also explored the causes sustaining this illicit activity in the state. The study revealed that the causes of pipeline vandalism include among other factors corruption, lack of patriotism, lack of good governance, alliance between oil workers and the oil thieves, lack of sincere community vigilante and digitalized security system. It is pertinent to state that though some agreed that poverty is a cause of pipeline vandalism quiet a number disagreed that poverty is one of the

factor causing oil theft but greed of the rich. This is because people who engage in such business come with gadgets a poor man cannot afford. As true as this may, it cannot be ruled out that it is poverty that makes people to run to leaking pipes to scoop fuel. It is poverty that increases the rate of mortality at explosion sites where most of the victims wants their own share of the so called “national cake”. Evidence from this study also showed that if the pipes were being monitored it will deter the oil thieves from coming frequently. It was also discovered that some respondents (despite the fact that they had made complaints to appropriate authorities) are still suffering from seepages from the oil pipeline and nothing has been done to seal up the point of leakages on the pipe. It was also discovered that many of the residents living close to the pipeline were always in fear before the explosion and even after. The study revealed that many lost their lives and lifetime investments. Families have been scattered as each had to squat with people since their house and property had been destroyed. It was also discovered that a number of the elderly had come down with illness they did not have before like high blood pressure because of the explosion. Apart from this, it was also discovered that some people especially the elderly who tried jumping some heights got their legs broken while trying to run from the fire. The incident has led to the increase of homeless people in the state. Another discovery was that though the explosions claimed lives and property, the vandals still visit the pipeline.

### 5.0 Conclusion and recommendation

The findings from this study showed that many factors interact to sustain pipeline vandalism and oil stealing around the pipeline area. It also showed that people living close to pipelines are endangered. This implies that stakeholders in the oil and gas sector need to be more responsive and make the security of the people a priority. The study recommends that the government should take adequate step to monitor the pipeline especially the ones in residential areas. The pipeline area should also be tarred and digital security system should be put in place. There is need for the government to also respond promptly and adequately when reports get to them that the oil pipe is leaking out with much pressure.

### REFERENCES

- Adeoye, K (2015). Pipeline vandalism flourishing in a flounder. Retrieved from [m.guaedian.ng](http://m.guaedian.ng)
- Adishi, Eric and Hunga, M. O. (2017). Oil Theft, Illegal Bunkering and Pipeline Vandalism: It's Impact on Nigeria Economy, 2015 – 2016. *International Journal of Economics and Business Management*. Vol. 3 No. 2 retrieved from [www.iiardpub.org](http://www.iiardpub.org)
- Akpan. et al (2020) Nigeria: Individuals, Households Count Losses As 5 Get Killed in AbuleEgba Pipeline Explosion. Retrieved from [www.vanguardngr.com](http://www.vanguardngr.com)
- Aroh et al. (2010). Oil spill incidents and pipeline vandalization in Nigeria Impact on public health and negation to attainment of Millennium development goal: the Ishiagu example. *Disaster Prevention and Management*. Vol. 19. 1: 70-87
- Carlson, et al (2015). Petroleum pipeline explosions in sub-Saharan Africa: A comprehensive systematic review of the academic and lay literature. *Burns*. 41: 497 – 501

- 
- Daily Trust, (2020). LASEMA discharges 300Abuleegba explosion victims. Retrieved from [dailytrust.com.lasema-discharges](http://dailytrust.com.lasema-discharges).
- Fadeyibi I.O., Omosebi D.T., Jewo P.I., and Ademiluyi, S.A. (2011). Burns and fire disasters from leaking petroleum pipes in Lagos, Nigeria: An 8-year experience. *Burns* 37:145 – 152.
- Njoku, A. (2016). Oil pipeline vandalism and its effect on the socio-economic development in Nigerian society. *International Journal of Multidisciplinary Academic Research: vol.4.(1):47-60*
- Nriagu, J., Udofia, E.A., Ekong, I. and Ebuk,G. (2016). Health Risks Associated with Oil Pollution in the Niger Delta, Nigeria. *International Journal of Environmental Resource and Public Health* **2016**, 13, 346; Accessed 12/5/2020 on [www.mdpi.com/journal/ijerph](http://www.mdpi.com/journal/ijerph).
- Odugbesan, B. (2019). Shell seeks stakeholders' support to curb oil pipeline vandalism. Retrieved from <https://www.shell.com.ng/media/2019-media-releases/shell-seeks-stakeholders-support-to-curb-oil-pipeline-vandalism.html>
- Okolie, C. (2019). Oil pipeline vandalism in the Niger Delta. Retrieved from [www.accord.org.za](http://www.accord.org.za)
- Onucha F. (2007) Poverty, Pipeline Vandalisation/Explosion and Human Security: Integrating Disaster Management into Poverty Reduction in Nigeria. *African Security Studies*, 16:2, 94-108
- Ojewale,k.(2019).Abuleegba pipeline explosion self-inflicted hell. Retrieved from [m.guardian.ng](http://m.guardian.ng)
- Ralby I.M. (2017). Down stream oil theft: global modalities, trends, and remedies. the Atlantic Council of the United States. Retrieved from [www.atlanticcouncil.org](http://www.atlanticcouncil.org)
- Sanusi A. ,Onovo J. C. and Isa H. (2016) The Environmental Impact of Pipeline Vandalism – A Challenge to Biodiversity in Portharcourt Area of Rivers State, Nigeria. *Int'l Journal of Advances in Chemical Engg., & Biological Sciences (IJACEBS)* Vol. 3, (1):142-146
- Umar A. T and Othman M.H. (2017). Causes and consequences of crude oil pipeline vandalism in the Niger delta region of Nigeria: A confirmatory factor analysis approach. *Cogent Economics & Finance vol.5(1):1-15*
- Yeels, A. and Akporiaye, A. (2016) Risk and Resilience in the Nigeria oil sector: The economic effects of pipeline sabotage and theft. *Energy Policy*.88:187–196
- This Day. (2013). Nigeria losses U.S. \$6billion annually to crude oil theft. Retrieved from [www.allafrica.com](http://www.allafrica.com)