

Social Dimensions and Consequences of Environmental Degradation in The Niger Delta of Nigeria

M.A.O. Aluko

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ABSTRACT The problem of environmental degradation in the Niger Delta is real, severe, enormous, critical, and precarious and is presently calling for both national and global attention.

This study sought to investigate the social dimensions of environmental degradation in the Niger Delta. The aim of the study is threefold:

- First, to investigate empirically the real issues at stake and the extent of environmental degradation in the Niger Delta;
- Second, to present an accurate picture of the social dimensions of environmental degradation; and
- Third, to suggest some categorical imperatives that will help to alleviate the identified social problems emanating from the impact of environmental degradation.

The study made use of both primary and secondary sources of data. The three sources of data include

- (1) The literature
- (2) Observation and
- (3) In-depth interview. These multiple methods were adopted in order to enrich the quality of the data collected for the study.

The study concluded by saying that something concrete must be done by both the government and the oil companies to cushion the effects of environmental degradation on the lives of the peoples of the Niger Delta as all people have a right to a generally satisfactory environment favourable to their survival and development.

Author's Address: **M.A.O. Aluko (Ph.D.)**, *Senior Lecturer*, Department of Sociology & Anthropology, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-ife, Nigeria
E-mail: maoaluko@oauife.edu.ng, maoaluko@yahoo.com