

Oil Companies and Host Community: A Probable Scenario for Reciprocal Empowerment

V. T. Jike

Department of Sociology and Psychology, Delta State University, P.M.B.1, Abraka, Nigeria
E-mail: jikevt@yahoo.com

KEYWORDS Conflict Resolution. Environmental Degradation. Holism. Peace Building. Poverty. Structural Functionalism. Synergy. Youth

ABSTRACT The paper is an incisive theoretical overview of the continuing conflict between oil companies and host communities in the Niger-Delta of Nigeria. It examines the contending issues around the substantive functions of oil companies and the latent consequences of environmental degradation which has remained a constant source of friction between oil companies and host communities. The paper adopts structural functionalism or holism as a theoretical model for understanding and creating a threshold for peace in the Niger Delta. The methodology adopted for this paper is rather crypt and largely ethnographic, involving long drawn interviews and non-participant observation of both oil workers and indigenes of the host community. Finally, the paper fosters synergy and recommends a scenario for reciprocal empowerment between oil companies and the host community in the Niger-Delta of Nigeria.