
Socio-Demographic Factors as Determinants of Students Participation in Restive Activities in Ogoni Land

NEMIE ANITA NUATE

*Department of Educational Foundations,
Faculty of Education
University of Port Harcourt, Rivers State. Nigeria.*

And

DR. JOSEPHINE AZUKA ONYIDO

*Department of Educational Foundations,
Faculty of Education
University of Port Harcourt, Rivers State. Nigeria.*

Abstract

The study focused on social and demographic factors as determinant of secondary school student's participation in restive activities in Ogoni land Of Rivers State. Seven specific objectives, research questions as well as corresponding hypothesis guided the study. The study used the descriptive research design. Samples of 400 residents were drawn from a population of SS2 students in the area. An instrument named "Youths Restiveness Questionnaire" (YRQ) was used for data collection. Validity of the instruments was carried out using expert vetting. Cronbach Alpha was used to determine a reliability index of 0.78. T-test was employed as a tool for the correlation analysis. Findings of the study showed that parenting influence ($p=0.038<0.05$), socio-economic status ($p=0.040<0.05$), location ($p=0.039<0.05$), age ($p=0.040<0.05$) and gender ($p=0.026<0.05$) all had significant influence on restive activities. On the other hand, peer affiliation ($p=0.36>0.05$) and family size ($p=0.47>0.05$) did not have any influence on restiveness. The study recommended amongst others that parents should use more of a democratic pattern in raising their children. They should be more diplomatic and dialogue more with their children.

Keywords: Restiveness, socio-economic status, location, family size,

Elegbeleye (2005) defined youth restiveness as "a sustained protestation embarked upon to enforce desired outcome from a constituted authority by an organized body of youths." It is marked by violence and disruption of lawful activities. It is evidenced that the impact of youth restiveness has become a very big problem in Nigeria generally in Niger Delta particular and this has taken huge toll on almost every aspect of

life including the educational sector with particular focus on the secondary sector. What led the foundation for the emergence of youth restiveness in Nigeria especially those that are taking place in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria can be traced to the time Nigeria began to use crude oil as a major source of revenue. Crude oil is one of the natural resources accessible for development of Nigeria economy which also poses great environmental challenges. As a result, the impacts youths restiveness in Ogoni land can be said to be due to crude oil exploration in the land. This action of oil exploration has impacted on the wellbeing of host communities, like Ogoni land, have been of concern to Nigerian government (Makachukwu, 2015). Youthfulness is the most functional moment of our lives, but the numerous assets embedded in it seem to be abused by some youths who have become restive due to perceived marginalization. In recent times, youths are surrounded with more chances and opportunities to excel, but several discouragement and challenges has also arise from different sources which include cultism, militancy, kidnapping, killing and violent agitations to let those in the positions of authorities come and address their problem.

The level at which many youths in the country has turned violent has become a source of big worry to everybody. Some authors have come to agree with the reality that Nigeria is now facing a lot of challenges arising from the activities of restive youths. Abdullahi and Abdulrahman (2016) have critically observed the big threats posed by youth population who have taken to violent means of expressing their feelings in their communities negatively. According to them, “Youth violence is rampant in Nigeria. Nigeria is becoming or has become a theatre of youth violence. Its occurrence and persistence have ostensibly undermined and threatened social security in the country. Apart from militancy in the Niger Delta region and acts of terrorism in North Eastern Nigeria, other common violent activities include clashes among cult members, political clashes, religious clashes, land disputes, communal clashes, herdsmen/farmer clashes, as well as tribal and ethnic violence. Meanwhile, research has found that persistent violence and restiveness across the six geopolitical zones in Nigeria is inimical to growth, and stifles economic development (Ewetan&Urhie 2014). Apart from wanton destruction of poverty, several lives have been lost to violence.

It has been observed by many that the rot in the political system of Nigeria that is being driven by crude oil as the main stay of the Nigerian economy up till date has led the current foundation of the current insecurity in Ogoni land and other areas of Rivers state and Niger delta. Resource control agitations in the South-south region in the late 1900s led to issue of militancy even though there are numerous ethnic conflicts in Nigeria. Some youth at every stage have been actively involved many of the social crisis because they are the most restive people who are full of energy. The origin of youth restiveness in Nigeria cannot be properly ascertained. One can state that prior to the discovery of oil in the Niger Delta as we have earlier stated, most communities including those in Ogoni land areas were living peacefully, intra-communal conflict driven by the youths and sponsored by their elders who seem to hold high positions in the society. Having reached an alarming rate, the level of insecurity in present-day Ogoni land area of the state has attracted widespread condemnation. Government of the day at all level is now looking for the ways they can stop violent agitation of the youths. They are looking for a way to stop youth restiveness which has different forms based on the cause of the agitation. Since the amnesty program of the Federal Government of

Nigeria, activities of youth restiveness were reduced to street protest. Today, youth restiveness in the Rivers state has taken a new dimension. It has brought so many economic, social and psychological impacts to the lives and properties of the people. Some youth violent acts have grounded some economic and social activities of people. It has been observed that violent youth protest leads to bad social conditions. Youth restiveness has multi-various effect in youth development, societal change, economic and political growth, industrial and increase in national income and more significantly on social interaction in Nigeria. Youth restiveness produces self-destruction of youth because when they are apprehended by law enforcement agencies, it may lead to their imprisonment, killing and many youth may become disabled when any of their sensitive organs are hit by gun or cutlass when attacked by rival cult or gang. It leads to societal unrest when innocent people, garages, market centers and immediate communities are destroyed. Elegbeleye (2005) further defined youth restiveness as “a sustained protestation embarked upon to enforce desired outcome from a constituted authority by an organized body of youths. This means the ability of the youths to use their strength to achieve violent goals.

Secondary school education is the education children receive after primary education and before the tertiary stage (NPF, 2004). It is generally the final stage of compulsory education. Secondary education in some countries includes a period of compulsory and a period of non-compulsory education. It is beyond the compulsory grades, provided by the high school or college preparatory school. Encyclopedia Britannica (2009) states that secondary education is the second stage traditionally found in formal education beginning at about 11 years and ending usually at about age 17. In all these, the secondary educational system is that which records the highest number of youth especially in the teenage and early adulthood. Ordinarily, this set of students has the primary objective of studying and making better use of their time in order to excel in their academics. Unfortunately, these set of students are also the ones involved in all manner of restive activities. Many scholars have argued the reason why these students are engaged on this anti-social behavior. While some have argued against or in favour, what is paramount is that these behaviours cut across social, biological and demographic factors.

It is observed that there could be a relationship between the type of friends one associates with and their behavior, attitude and actions. This is known as peer group association. Peer group as defined is the social class in which individuals with similar characteristics interact with each other. Through this medium, ideas are formed and shared among each member. Igho (2006) noted that peer group has a lot of influences on the lives of youths. In most cases, youths form peer association which to a large extent determines how they talk, walk behave or even in what they wear. Since the peer group form an integral part of youth life, it has however been observed that the way and manner in which they interact among themselves. For instance, individuals who attach themselves to gangs may tend to be juvenile in nature resulting to anti-social behaviour such as bullying, vandalism and general restiveness.

Parental influence has to do with the extent to which parents (biological or otherwise) are involved in the upbringing of the child. It signifies the degree of authority and power that parents has on the child. It is certain that the extent which parents are involved in the lives of the youths may have significant influence on the behavior of such children.

On the other hand, it is that the type of influence (positive or negative) that parents have over the children could be a factor that determines how such children will behave. Suffice it to assume that if parents are responsible in bringing up their children, this may reflect in the lives and manner of the students and vice-versa. On this note, the researcher is also poised to investigate the influence of such on participation of youths in restive activities.

Gender is either of the two sexes (male and female), especially when considered with reference to social and cultural differences rather than biological ones. The term is also used more broadly to denote a range of identities that do not correspond to established ideas of male and female. The World Health Organization (WHO, 2017) stated that Gender refers to the roles, behaviours, activities, attributes and opportunities that any society considers appropriate for girls and boys, and women and men. Depending on the context, these characteristics may include biological sex (i.e., the state of being male, female, or an intersex variation), sex-based social structures (i.e., gender roles), or gender identity. Gender intersects with other factors that drive inequalities, discrimination and marginalization, such as ethnicity, socioeconomic status, disability, age, geographic location and sexual orientation, among others. Based on this, it is observed that gender may breed certain behavioural disposition that makes it typical of one to declare some behavior of gender relative. For instance, it is assumed that male students are more outspoken and may display more hostile behaviours like fighting than the females. While it is important to address these concerns, men are also faced with rigid gender norms associated with poor health outcomes. Traditional expectations of masculinity increase men's vulnerability to serious anti-social behaviours. Based on this fact, it could be that male students may display more restive behavior than the females and vice-versa.

Family size refers to the number of people in the family (Nwankwo, 2010). Traditionally, the number of children an individual has could be a reflection of the time and energy he expends in taking care of them not just financially but morally. Children and marital happiness go together (Christensen & Philbrick, 2004). Some families have high or low family size. Blake (1999) remarked that family size is associated with more authoritarian parenting which in turn negatively impacts on child's behaviours and attitude as well as his ego and identity. Boone and Montave (1999) in their study on aggression and family size discovered a correction on a linear manner between them. Connov, (2010) noted that family size may not be a risk factor for conduct problem in low socio-economic families and further stated that family size, birth order and parenting styles are the features of family structure that have been associated with an increased risk for juvenile delinquency and antisocial behaviors. Raine and Conner (2010) noted that family size is associated with predisposition towards conduct problems of adolescents. Based on this, it could be seen that family size may play an important role in restive activity of the youths. an unverified assumption that the researcher intends to investigate.

The problem of youth restiveness in Ogoni land has many dimensions. The way and manner some youths today engage in antisocial behavior like militancy, cultism, kidnapping and armed robbery has made people to lose their lives as well as properties worth billions of naira. It is no longer news today of how some boys use dangerous weapons like AK-47 rifle, axes, cutlass and other objects and attack and kill innocent

people on the road, streets, and workplaces almost on weekly bases. There are instances of recent deaths of people who were short dead for not doing anything other than they go about their normal business. There have been cases in which victim's heads are beheaded. Today, travelers pass through excruciating pains of passing through the high ways and water ways for their various business engagements. Most of them end up being kidnapped with huge ransom paid before they are released if they happen to be alive. Foreigners working in the oil and gas sector are kidnapped by people who chose to do meaningful work. The practice in which some youths organize themselves to commit crimes of different levels have become very disturbing that something drastic needs to be done quickly before things completely gets out control. Youths will not be restive if they are given proper education.

In Rivers state, governments have initiated some policies and programme to stop violent youth protest but yet some youths are still restive by carrying out actions that affect the economic, social and psychological lives and properties of the people. There is loss of jobs in the private and public sectors. There is the problem of business closure as and relocation by the business owners who no longer fell secured in the places of violent youth attacks, killings and kidnappings. Many of the victims of youth attacks have been undergoing different life challenges if they survive youth attacks. There are many economic, social and psychological consequences of youth restiveness in the society. Why do some youths engage in crimes and antisocial behaviours? Are they frustrated or aggrieved? What are the social, economic, and psychological impacts of the youth restiveness in Ogoni land in Rivers state? This unanswered problem has created a huge gap which the present study seeks to fill.

Aim and Objectives

The aim of this study is to investigate the social and demographic factors as determinant of secondary school student's participation in restive activities in Ogoni land. The specific objective is to:

1. Determine the influence of peer group on secondary school student's participation in restive activities in Ogoni land.
2. Determine parental influence (styles) on secondary school student's participation in restive activities in Ogoni land.
3. Determine the influence of gender on secondary school students' participation in restive activities in Ogoni land.
7. Determine the influence of family size on secondary school students' participation in restive activities in Ogoni land.

Research Questions

The following research questions are asked to guide the researcher in the study:

1. To what extent does peer group affiliation influence secondary school student's participation in restive activities in Ogoni land?
2. To what extent does parental influence (styles) determine secondary school student's participation in restive activities in Ogoni land?
3. To what extent does gender influence secondary school student's participation in restive activities in Ogoni land?
4. To what extent does family size influence secondary school student's participation in restive activities in Ogoni land?

Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses are postulated to guide the researcher in the course of the study.

- HO₁. There is no significant difference in the participation level in restive activities between students affiliated to peers and those not affiliated in secondary school in Ogoni land.
- HO₂. There is no significant difference in the participation level in restive activities between students from various parenting styles in secondary school in Ogoni land.
- HO₃. Gender does not have any significant influence on secondary school student's participation in restive activities in Ogoni land.
- HO₄. There is no significant difference in the participation of secondary school students from various family size in restive activities in Ogoni land.

Methodology

The researchers in this study adopted descriptive survey design. Descriptive survey design a research design as defined by Baridam (2001) is that design used as a guide in collecting and analyzing data for a study without manipulating the independent variables. The design was selected because the researcher was interested in finding out the influence of other demographic data like age, socio-economic status etc. on restive activities. This design is used here because these data are collected in a nominal scale. The population of the study consists of SS2 students in public secondary schools in Ogoni land. As at the time of the study, data retrieved from Rives state ministry of Education Showed that there were 2,346 SS2 students in public schools in Ogoni land. This population is selected because they are within the age definition of youths and majority of the students in this area as observed by the researcher already are involved in some ant-social behaviours. Hence, they provided useful data necessary to complete the study.

A sample size of 400 SS2 students was used for the study. First, Taro Yemen formula was used to determine the number of students to draw. After applying this formula, this gave a total of 342. This was considered. Furthermore, in order to draw the sample for the LGA which comprised [Khana](#), [Gokana](#), [Eleme](#) and [Tai](#), the researcher used simple random sampling by ballot. Names of all the Ogoni LGA was written and folded in a piece of paper. They was shuffled and the researcher hand-picked 2 pieces, this revealed Eleme and Gokana. The researcher further used non-proportionate sampling technique to draw 10 public schools from each of the LGA. This gave a total of 20 schools in the area. In order to select the students, similar technique was used to draw 20 SS2 students from each of the school. This gave a total of 400 students in all. The instrument for data collection is called the 'Youth Restiveness Questionnaire' (YRQ). The instrument is a self-developed questionnaire designed using the 4-point Likert scale ranging from strongly agreed to strongly disagreed. The Determinant of Youth Restiveness Questionnaire' (DYRQ) has two sections (A & B). In section A, demographic information of the respondents are contained. They include socio-economic status of parents, age, location of students, gender as well as family size, peer association parenting pattern. In sub-section B, items measuring the degree of Youth Restiveness Questionnaire' (YRQ) are contained. The instrument contains 20 items in all. The face and content validity of the instrument was determined by the supervisor

and two other experts in the field of the study. Criticisms and corrections were made before the researcher administered the instruments. The reliability of the instruments was determined using Cronbach Alpha method. Twenty (20) copies of the instruments were given to pilot group who were not part of the original sample but which shared similar characteristics with the target sample. After their response, the data were subjected to Cronbach analysis via SPSS. A reliability index of 0.87 was obtained. This coefficient index showed that the instrument was highly reliable. The instrument of the study was administered to the respondents and retrieved by the researcher alongside the help of three research assistants. The research assistants educated the respondents on the content of the questionnaire. The researcher took time to explain some technical aspects of the questionnaire to them so as to help them in the process. After the responses, the instruments were collected on the spot. The researcher used t-test as well as ANOVA to analyze the data generated.

Result

This chapter deals with the presentation and analysis of data generated from the research instrument. Both research question and their corresponding hypotheses are presented in each respective table

Data Presentation

Research Question One: To what extent does peer group affiliation influence secondary school student's participation in restive activities in Ogoni land?

Hypothesis One: There is no significant difference in the participation level in restive activities between students affiliated to peers and those not affiliated in secondary school in Ogoni land.

Table 1 t-test analysis of difference in restive activities between student affiliate with peer group and those not affiliated with peer

Peer Affiliation	N	Mean	Std. D	Df	T	alpha	Sig	Result
Peer Affiliates	174	58.32	12.726	398	0.91	0.05	0.36	Insignificant (Retain Ho)
Non-Peer Affiliates	226	57.19	11.851					

From the analysis in table 1 above, student identified as belonging to peer group were 174 while those without any peer affiliation were 226. Their mean and standard deviation values were 58.32; 12.72 and 57.19; 11.85 respectively. From this mean, it is clear that students who belong to peer groups partake more in restive activities compared to those who do not. Calculated t was 0.91 while sig value was 0.36. Hence, since sig ($p=0.39 > 0.05$) is greater than the alpha at 398 degrees of freedom, the null hypothesis was retained meaning that there is no significant difference in the participation level in restive activities between students affiliated to peers and those not affiliated in secondary school in Ogoni land.

Research Question Two: To what extent does parental influence (styles) determine secondary school student’s participation in restive activities in Ogoni land?

Hypothesis Two: There is no significant difference in the participation level in restive activities between students from various parenting styles in secondary school in Ogoni land.

Table 2 ANOVA analysis of difference in restive activities between students from various parental influences

	N	Mean	Std. D			
Authoritarian	69	57.25	11.911			
Authoritative	268	57.75	12.687			
Permissive	32	62.22	11.975			
Uninvolved	31	53.35	6.873			
Total	400	57.68	12.236			
ANOVA						
	Sum Squares	ofDf	Mean Square	F	Sig.	Result
Between Groups	1253.413	3	417.804	2.829	.038	Significant (Reject Ho)
Within Groups	58485.627	396	147.691			
Total	59739.040	399				

From the analysis in table 2 above, students identified with authoritarian, authoritative, permissive and uninvolved parental influences were 69, 268, 32 and 31 respectively. Their mean values were 57.25, 57.75, 62.22 and 53.35 respectively. These means showed that students from permissive parental influences are more involved in restive activities followed by those from authoritative and those from authoritarian and lastly by those from uninvolved parental influenced homes. Calculated F value was 2.829 while sig value was 0.038. Therefore, since sig ($p=0.038<0.05$) was less than 0.05 alpha at 398 degrees of freedom, the null hypothesis was rejected meaning that there is no significant difference in the participation level in restive activities between students from various parenting styles in secondary school in Ogoni land.

Research Question Three: To what extent does gender influence secondary school student’s participation in restive activities in Ogoni land?

Hypothesis Three: Gender does not have any significant influence on secondary school student’s participation in restive activities in Ogoni land.

Table 3 t-test analysis of difference in restive activities between male and female students

From the analysis in table 3 above, male student were 223 while female were 177. Their

Gender	N	Mean	Std. D	Df	t	Alpha	Sig	Result
Male	223	70.00	13.271	398	0.55	0.05	0.026	Significant (Reject Ho)
Female	177	65.76	16.389					

mean and standard deviation values were 70.00; 13.27 and 65.76; 16.38 respectively. From this mean, it is clear that male students engage more in restive activities than females. Calculated t was 0.55 while sig value was 0.026. Hence, since sig ($p=0.026<0.05$) is less than the alpha at 398 degrees of freedom, the null hypothesis was rejected meaning that gender has a significant influence on secondary school student's participation in restive activities in Ogoni land.

Research Question Four: To what extent does family size influence secondary school student's participation in restive activities in Ogoni land?

Hypothesis Four: There is no significant difference in the participation of secondary school students from various family size in restive activities in Ogoni land.

Table 4 t-test analysis of difference in restive activities between students from small and large family size

Size	N	Mean	Std. D	df.	T	Alpha	Sig	Result
Small Family	143	72.99	14.145	398	-0.72	0.05	0.47	Insignificant (Retain Ho)
Large Family	257	71.02	16.575					

From the analysis in table 4 above, student from smaller family size were 143 while those from large families were 257. Their mean and standard deviation values were 72.99; 14.14 and 71.02; 16.57 respectively. From this mean, it is clear that students from smaller family size engage more in restive activities than those from larger family sizes. Calculated t was -0.72 while sig value was 0.47. Hence, since sig ($p=0.47>0.05$) is higher than the alpha at 398 degrees of freedom, the null hypothesis was retained meaning that there is no significant difference in the participation of secondary school students from various family size in restive activities in Ogoni land.

Discussion of Findings

From the analysis in research question one, it is found that there is no significant difference in the participation level in restive activities between students affiliated to peers and those not affiliated in secondary school in Ogoni land. This findings means that peer association or non-association has no significant influence on the decision of students to engage in restive activities. The finding also imply that both students who belong to peer group and those who do not may likely engage themselves in restive activities and vice-versa. The findings of the study may come because a lot of individual

respondents are quiet aware of themselves and may not really allow anything to affect them negatively except those who really want to willingly engage in such activities. The finding of the study is surprising to the researcher. This is because to the best of her knowledge, she thought that peer group is a strong force in determining the actions and inactions of individuals. The finding of the study is in line with that reported by Okorodudu (2003) and Onoyase and Ebinuwa-Okoh (2001) who all stated that social influence from youth group is a significant predictor of anti-social activities by youths.

Findings two revealed that there is no significant difference in the participation level in restive activities between students from various parenting styles in secondary school in Ogoni land. This findings means that irrespective of the parenting styles or influences by parents, it cannot determine the participation of the youths in restive activities. The findings also means that students participate in restiveness is not dependent on the influence that the parents have on them. The findings of the study may come because in Ogoni land where the present study was carried out, it could be that restiveness is seen as a normal thing even among the parents. However, despite this finding, it is surprising to the researcher that parental influence or training pattern is not a predictor of behaviours among students. More surprising is the fact that many researchers like Akpeli (2009) have reported the influence of parental styles on adolescents' behaviour. More so, the findings of Kelly (2007) and Okorodudu (2003) who all noted that parenting style effectively predict adolescents' delinquency although authoritarian and authoritative did not.

From research finding three, gender has a significant influence on secondary school student's participation in restive activities in Ogoni land. This finding is not surprising because just as revealed by the mean scores, male respondents had higher mean scores meaning that male engage more. Therefore, it is not surprising that gender is a factor that influences restive activities among the students. The finding also supports that reported earlier by Nwachukwu (2015) who also revealed the significant influence of gender on anti-social activities of the youths.

Finally, research findings four showed that there is no significant difference in the participation of secondary school students from various family size in restive activities in Ogoni land. This means that irrespective of the number of children that one has in the family, it cannot influence their engagement in restiveness. The findings is also in line with that reported by Igbo and Ikpa in (2013) who reported no differences in the anti-social behaviors of youths from various family sizes.

Conclusion

Youth restiveness is the sustained protest which at times involves violent activities engaged by the youth as a result of perceived negligence of social responsibilities by the governments. In Rivers state, this action has impacted negatively on almost every aspect of live. However, most affected areas are the psychological and social life of the people. These effect come in areas of reduced the level of academic performance, poor performance in public examinations etc. However, reviewed interest in government commitment to tackle some social issues among various local communities is one of the sure way of curbing this menace.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, the study recommended that;

1. Despite the fact that peer affiliation is not a factor that influence restiveness, it is still encouraged that teachers, parents and counselors should watch out for the type of friends that the students keep.
2. It is recommended that parents should use more of a democratic pattern in raising their children. They should be more diplomatic and dialogue more with their children.
3. Counselors should pay more attention on male students. They should counsel them appropriately.

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