

**LOCUS OF CONTROL, PERCEIVED HEALTH STATUS AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY-OF-LIFE AMONG RESIDENTS OF OIL  
PRODUCING COMMUNITIES IN ONDO STATE**

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**CERTIFICATION**

This is to certify that the research work titled “LOCUS OF CONTROL, PERCEIVED HEALTH STATUS ON ENVIRONMENTAL AMONG THE RESIDENTS OF OIL PRODUCING COMMUNITIES IN ONDO STATE” was carried out by Adeniyi Gabriel ADEDIRAN for the award of the degree of Master of Science in the Department of Psychology, Faculty of Social Sciences, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria.

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### **DEDICATION**

This research work is dedicated to the Almighty God, maker of heaven, Kings of Kings, Alpha and omega, for giving me the grace, knowledge, strength and wisdom to complete this research work against all odds.

OBAFEMI AWOLOWO UNIVERSITY

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## ABSTRACT

This study examined the influence of locus of control on environmental quality of life; It determined the influence of perceived health status on environmental quality of life; It also examined gender differences in the perception of the influence of environmental quality of life. These were with the view of determining factors that influenced environmental quality of life among residents of oil producing communities in Ondo State.

Primary data will be used for the study. The data were collected from the residents of Ayetoro and Awoye communities. These two communities were purposively selected because they are much more affected and most populated among the 10 most affected by oil spillage in the oil producing communities in Ilaje Local Government Area of Ondo State. According to NPC (2006), the two communities have a population of 8031 and 5136 respectively. A proportion of 5 % will be selected from each community making a total of 657 participants using convenience sampling technique. Three standardized psychological scales will be used for data collection. These are: Multidimensional Locus of Control Scale (MLCS), Perceived Health Status scale (PHSS) and Environmental Quality of Life Scale (EQLS). Data collected were analysed using descriptive statistics such as mean and percentages, and inferential statistics such as independent sample t-test and one-way ANOVA.

The results of the analysis showed that locus of control significantly influenced the environmental quality of life among residents of oil producing communities in the area ( $t =$

6.292;  $df = 655$ ;  $p < .05$ ). Also, the results revealed a significant influence on the levels of locus of control on environmental quality of life ( $F = 24.66$ ,  $df = 655$ ;  $p < 0.05$ ). Furthermore, a significant gender difference was obtained on environmental quality of life ( $t = 7.28$ ,  $df = 655$ ;  $p < 0.05$ ).

The study concluded that the two independent variables (locus of control and perceived health) have influence on environmental quality of life.

**Key words:** Locus of control, Perceived Health-status and Environmental Quality of life,

## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background to the study

Every environment is made up of both human and natural resources. These natural resources should be used for the benefits of all citizens at large and should not pose a threat to the citizens or communities at large (Aarape and Asagba, 2009). In the broadest term the environment consists of the air, water, and land that make up the planet and the plants and animals that live on or in them. There is the built environment i.e. man – made environment which affects man's health and comfort together with the health of natural environment; the natural resources that sustain the built environment, the recreational possibilities that the natural environment provides; and aesthetics, the role natural beauty plays in man's relationship with the natural environment (Rabinowitz, 2013). Environmental quality of life is a measure of the health of the environment itself (including the plants and animals it supports), and of the effects it has on the health, comfort, and psychological state of the people that inhabit it (Rabinowitz, 2013). Quality of life (QOL) is seen as the general well-being of individuals and societies. Quality of life has a wide range of contexts, including the fields of international development, healthcare, politics and employment. Quality of life is synonymous with standard of living. The latter is based primarily on the level of wealth, comfort, material goods and necessities available to a certain socioeconomic class in a certain geographic area. Instead, standard indicators of the quality of life include not only wealth and employment but also the natural and built environments, physical and mental health, education, recreation and leisure time, and social belonging.

One fundamental problem that faces the oil producing areas today is the degradation of its environment. The fact is incontrovertible that the environment of the oil producing communities has been intensely polluted with tragic consequences for the economy of the people and the totality of the quality of life (Babatunde, 2010). Degraded environmental quality can result from and cause unsustainable development patterns. It can have substantial economic and consequences from health costs to reduced agricultural output, impaired ecosystem functions and a general low quality of life (OECD, 2011).

The quality of the living environment has a direct impact on health and well-being. An unspoiled environment is a source of satisfaction, improves mental well-being, allows people to recover from the stress of everyday life and to perform physical activity. Having access to green spaces for example, is an essential part of quality of life. Also, economies rely not only on healthy and productive workers but also on natural resources such as water, timber, fisheries, plants and crops. Protecting the environment and natural resources therefore remains a long-term priority for all generations.

The ecosystem in the oil producing communities is sensitive and fragile in spite of the natural resources they are endowed with. Oil exploration has serious implication on the immediate environment as it impoverishes both ecological and socio-economic environment causing land dereliction, deforestation, water and air pollution and so on which have reached a high tempo in the affected area and as a result the quality of life is being eroded (Hsina, 2004).

However, in spite of the damaging impact of oil exploitation on the environment and livelihood of the host community scientific data on the overall and long-term effects of oil exploration on the area are only beginning to emerge (Human Rights Watch, 1999; Nwachukwu, 1999; Auko, 1999; Okonta and Douglas 2001; Onosode, 2003). Environmentalists and other

experts have focused attention on the environmental degradation resulting from oil activities and the major bone of contention is the implication of the environmental impact on the livelihood of the people of the oil producing areas.

In tackling ecological and environmental problems that arise from the exploration of oil mineral in the Niger-Delta region and to improve environmental quality of life of residents in the oil communities, the Federal Government established the Niger-Delta Development Commission (NDDC) in 2000 with the mission of facilitating a rapid, even and sustainable development by turning the Niger-Delta Communities into a region that is economically prosperous, socially stable and ecologically regenerative. The Niger-Delta development commission (NDDC) is charged with the mandate amongst others to prepare master plans and schemes designed to promote the physical development of the Niger-Delta region and make life better for residents through provision of basic infrastructure. More worrisome is, despite the efforts of this agency, the environmental quality of life of residents in most oil producing communities has not improved as expected. On its own part the Ondo State Government created the Ondo State Oil Producing Area Development Commission (OSOPADEC) which also performs the same function of NDDC but at the grassroots level to ameliorate the quality of life of residents in oil producing communities.

The significant differences in the quality of the environment varies and depend on different factors like urbanisation, pollution and use of natural resources, exposures and associated health risks, as well as the benefits of pollution reduction and of a natural environment, are not uniformly distributed within populations. Studies show that poor environmental conditions affect vulnerable groups especially children and aged people. The evidence is scarce, but shows that deprived communities are more likely to be affected.