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## RESEARCH ARTICLE

### INTRA-REGIONAL DISPARITY IN HUMAN WELFARE IN THE NIGERIAN NIGER DELTA: THE NEED FOR SUB-REGIONAL INTEGRATION

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#### ABSTRACT

This paper evaluates the socio-physical and socio-economic improvements oil exploration and production have brought to the oil bearing sub-region relative to non-oil bearing sub-regions of Ondo State in the Nigerian Niger Delta. The aim is to compare the level of development and human welfare in both sub-regions. Ilaje and Edo-Odo (the oil bearing local government areas); and Okitipupa and Irele (two non-oil bearing local government areas) were selected for the study. Sixteen different types of improvement areas were expressed by the people in the two sub-regions. In analyzing the data, qualitative and quantitative; parametric and non-parametric statistics were used for analyses of the variables, both inter-regionally and intra-regionally. The result shows that some degree of relationship exists between the two sub-regions as  $\rho = 0.48$  (positive and moderate correlation). The study reveals the gap between the perception of the people in both areas as 48.2% of respondents in the oil producing area believed that oil has not brought any improvement to their areas, which is against what obtained in the non-oil bearing area where 98.4% believed oil has brought improvement to their areas. Student's *t* test and correlation analyses revealed that there is a significant difference in improvement between the two sub-regions (0.000 *p*-value). The Chi-square and Spearman's correlation results (0.000 *p*-value for both) also show very significant difference in both socio-physical and socio-economic life of the people. The paper concludes that the non-oil bearing sub-region of Ondo State is relatively better off in terms of physical infrastructural facilities and socio-economic development indices. The study develops an intra-regional integration scheme, as a paradigm shift, and recommends application of spill-over concept to achieve integrated regional development in the study area.

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#### INTRODUCTION

Studies have shown that petroleum mining and production in Nigeria is concentrated around the Niger Delta and the Bight of Benin, both on land and offshore, it has strong implication not only for toxicity of the ecosystem but also for the health of the people who rely on untreated water for domestic uses in these areas (Anikpe, 1996). Also, Aghalino (1998) observes that the impact of oil exploitation on the oil minerals producing communities is three-fold. He notes that it leads to environmental pollution, destroys the ecosystem and ways of life of the people and impoverishes the oil producing communities. On the oil bearing coastal zone development, Olujinmi (2007) writes that the zone has been an area of intensive human activities connected with port development, urban development, sand mining, dredging, land reclamation, wood cutting, oil and gas exploration and exploitation. But he observes that in the areas, physical planning attentions are given to the few urban settlements like Port-Harcourt and

Calabar while smaller settlements like Mahin, Ayetoro and so on in Ondo state; and several others are neglected. These coastal settlements are always confronted with problems like perennial sea incursion, marine erosion and flooding. Many people have abandoned their original and natural homes/settlements to relocate upland. An example is Ayetoro in Ondo State. More importantly, several studies have established poverty and deprivation as the major problems of the oil producing communities of the Nigeria Niger Delta. Oil exploration, exploitation, production and distribution have polluted their fishing waters and destroyed their agricultural lands, both of which are the mainstay of their economy. These are the two major occupations of the Niger Delta communities [(Ebisemiju (1966), Omofonmwon and Odia (2009), NDDC (2000), World Bank (1993)]. It is on this premise that this study is desirous of investigating the level of socio-physical and socio-economic improvement oil production has brought to the oil bearing sub-region relative to the non-oil bearing sub-region, and the extent to which human welfare has been affected in both sub-regions. The study particularly develops an intra-regional integration scheme/activity linkage to be applied for developmental activities in the Niger Delta; with focus on Ondo State.

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## Study Area

In defining the Nigerian Niger Delta, there have been different approaches and perspectives, but the common criterion used to describe the Niger Delta is its geographical location. Generally, there are four major ways the Niger Delta is described viz; Natural or Core Niger-Delta, the Geographical Niger- Delta, the Oil Producing Niger Delta and the Coastal States of Rivers, Bayelsa, Delta, Ondo, Akwa-Ibom, Cross-Rivers and Edo States (Otiye Igbuzor, 2006). The Niger Delta referred to in this paper is the one that describes the area as consisting of the nine oil producing states of the Niger Delta. The African Network for Environment and Economic Justice (ANEJ) 2004, in a publication titled 'Oil of Poverty in the Niger Delta' described geographical location of the Niger Delta as being on the coast of Nigeria where the Niger Delta divides into numerous tributaries. Ondo State sub-region of the Niger Delta is the focus/case study of this paper. Ondo state lies between latitudes 5°45'' and 7°52''N; and longitudes 4°20'' and 6°5''E. Its land area is about 15,500 square kilometers. Edo and Delta States bound Ondo State on the east, on the west by Ogun and Osun States, on the north by Ekiti and Kogi States and to the south by the Bight of Benin and the Atlantic Ocean.

Ilaje and Ese-Odo Local Government Areas were created on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 1996 from the former Ilaje/Ese-Odo Local Government. Both are oil producing local government areas in Ondo State and are riverine communities. While Ilaje covers an area of 3,140.82km<sup>2</sup>, Ese-Odo is 495.63km<sup>2</sup> in area. Ilaje shares boundary with Okitipupa Local Government in the North, Atlantic Ocean in the South, Ogun State in the West and bounded by Delta State in the East. Ese-Odo shares boundary with Ilaje in the South, Irele Local Government to the North East, Okitipupa Local Government to the North West and bounded by both Delta and Edo States in the South East. According to the 1991 population figures, Ilaje's population was 277,034. The 2006 figure was still under contention at the time this study was undertaken, but for Ese-Odo Local Government, the 2006 census puts her population at 154,976 people.

## Literature Review

### Concept of Regional Integration

Regional economic integration (REI) has a fairly long history in virtually all parts of Sub-Sahara Africa (SSA). A number of leaders called for the integration of Africa soon after independence, but it was only in the 1970s and 1980s that concrete steps were taken to re-launch or establish economic integration institutions in all sub-regions. The first generation of regional schemes were motivated partly by the political vision of African Unity (AU), but also as a means for providing sufficient scale to import-substitution industrialization policies (Lolette, 1996).

Regional Integration can be defined along three dimensions, summarizing the theoretical expositions made in the immediate previous section viz:

- Geographic scope; illustrating the number of countries involved in an agreement (variable geometry);

- Substantive coverage or width; that is the sector or activity coverage (trade, labour mobility, macro – policies, sector policies etc); and
- Depth of integration; measuring the degree of sovereignty a country is ready to surrender, that is from simple coordination or cooperation to deep integration. (Lolette, K. N., 1996)

These forms of integration, to succeed politically depend on the existence of domestic peace or security in the constituent sub-regions, political commitment and mutual trusts. Economically, there is a need for minimum threshold of macro-economic stability and good financial management in the sub-regions and sufficiently broad regional reforms to open markets. No matter the nature of the scheme, successful integration has to be guided by principles, which would assure that the sub-regional and national programmes are compatible and mutually reinforcing. In essence, regional integration, by intent and content is built on mutual benefits (political, economic, and social) among the constituent sub – regions. In the broadest terms, regional integration is the formation of economic blocs intended to bring added strength and stability to nations in geographic proximity (Plyushi, 2009).

Regional Integration has a lot of definitions and operated from different dimensions, depending on the subject and circumstances that necessitated the arrangement. Bamba (2007) describes regional integration as the emergence of a governance level between the national and global levels within the system of world governance based on cooperative behaviour and the designs of common policies and institutions by actors that traditionally belong to the national governance level. Regional integration arrangement can be macro-regional (at the supra – national level) or micro-regional (sub-national level).

The concept of regional integration takes on a predominantly economic slant in the literature to the point of confusion with that of economic integration. However, economic integration concept can be used generically in reference to growing economic ties among countries which may or may not be geographically contiguous. Abdul-Kareem (2011), while writing on South Africa's Regional Integration Strategy posits that the goal of regional integration agenda is to create a fully integrated and internationally competitive region with the overarching objective of poverty reduction. This goal, he explains, will be achieved progressively through the creation of a Free Trade Area (FTA), *which will have multiplier effects*. Abdul – Kareem identifies some key areas such as trade facilitation, energy sector, transport sector, ICT sector, regional public goods, all of which can be achieved through effective monitoring.

While regional integration is very relevant in the international trade and/or investment agreements between nations, the sub-regional component of this concept is more relevant and applicable in this paper. The inability of each sub-region to meet the challenges such as adequate infrastructure and utilities, energy and food security, water resources, infectious diseases, resource conservation, security and conflict, and the power of external trading blocs; and the sub-regions pursuing their own agenda separately under the same regional government necessitate integration.

## The Welfare Concept

The welfare concept is a strategy which utilizes the natural resources of a depressed region as a vehicle for growth and development generation with a given spatial content (Sule, 2000:64). He further writes that the depressed resource base is given a focus for development attention. The main thrust of this concept/strategy is to prevent the sucking pump of rural areas in its characteristics of its relationship and dichotomy between the rural and urban areas of Africa, as Friedmann (1976) describes the spatial relationship between the backward and developing parts of a particular region. In the words of Olotubosun (1975), he describes the phenomenon as the neglected rural majority in Nigeria and considers it a serious case of unequal exchange between the urban centres and rural areas.

The basic assumption of the welfare concept is that a spatially defined area is endowed with certain natural resources, and if exploited, it could serve as a catalyst to the economic growth of that particular area. Sule was affirmative on the fact that if this concept/strategy is applied to emerging African nations, basic planning units would emerge and provide nuclei of growth generators at different locations, serving as impulse of growth within the African Country in question. Essentially, the resources of a region are expected to be developed to sustain welfare for the purpose of improving the quality of life with respect to regional incomes and employment in other than the urban axis.

Concerning the welfare of the Nigerian oil bearing region, far back in 1991, Sule had observed that “..... *the failure of the Federal Government of Nigeria to make the Welfare Concept applicable to the exploitation of petroleum within the context of development planning had become a serious tragedy in terms of poor quality of life of the people living in the petroleum producing riverine regions of that country*” (Sule, 1991). This observation of Sule in more than the last two decades is still holding in the Nigerian oil bearing sub-region. When resources bearing regions or sub-regions within a region are denied the opportunities arising out of their natural setting, manifesting in poor communication network, exacerbated unemployment, aggravating poverty, poor housing, lack of power supply, potable water, qualitative education, sustainable healthcare delivery, e.t.c., they are denied welfare, they are only being exploited. This is the lot of the people of Nigerian Niger Delta, including Ondo State sub-region, which is the focus of this paper.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

Primary data were collected through questionnaire administration, oral interview and direct observation. A total of 1485 copies of questionnaire were administered among the residents in the study area. Secondary data are those that were collected from relevant government agencies to supplement the primary data collected. Out of the eighteen (18) local government areas in Ondo State, four (4) local government areas, which are Ese-Odo, Ilaje, Okitipupa and Irele formed the sample frame for the study. Ese-Odo and Ilaje Local Government Areas are in the oil bearing sub-region (purposely selected), while Okitipupa and Irele Local Government Areas are in the non-oil producing sub-region (selected based on contiguity).

Fifteen communities were randomly selected as units of data collection for the study based on the sizes and population of the local government areas. Sample size was taken, using 1.0% of the total population of the sampled communities i.e 1.0% of 148574. So, a total of 1485 copies of questionnaire were distributed across the sampled units. Out of this number, only 1375 copies of questionnaires (92.6%) were returned with varying figures. This is expressed thus:  $\frac{P_1}{P_2} \times 1485 = N$

Where

$P_1$  = Population of each enumeration area (locality)

$P_2$  = Total population of the fifteen (15) localities selected

$N$  = Number of respondents/questionnaires in each enumeration area (locality).

## Data Processing and Analysis

In the oil producing areas, there were 859 responses while 448 responses were harvested in the non-oil bearing sub-region. When the various responses were aggregated, sixteen (16) specific improvement areas were observed, with different notions about each improvement area in the two sub-regions. For the purpose of analysis, the specific improvement areas were summed up by unit counts, using both inter-regional and intra-regional dimension, i.e within each sub-region and between the two sub-regions. This is particularly to compare the relative contribution of infrastructure and utilities, including economic and sociological indices or parameters. Abler Adam's phi-coefficient ( $\phi$ ) was used to examine the relationship in improvement between the two sub-regions compared, and chi-square statistics was applied to test the level of significance of the differences observed between the two sub-regions. On intra-regional evaluation of improvement, Spearman's and Kendall's correlation analyses were used to test for the level of differences in improvement between the two local government areas in each sub-region, while chi-square and Spearman's correlation statistics were used to test for the inter-regional level of differences in the comparison of aggregate improvements. In testing of the null hypothesis that 'there is no significant difference in the mean satisfaction on infrastructures between the oil producing and non-oil producing sub-regions of Ondo State', student't' test and Pearson's correlation statistics were applied.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### General

The information used in this section was obtained from the people in the sampled communities in both oil-producing and non-oil producing sub-regions. The specific responses to the questions by the respondents were sixteen. The specific improvement areas mentioned were aggregated by unit counts and later summed up as shown in Table 1, with intra-regional dimension (Tables 3 and 4) and inter-regional dimension (Table 5). The percentage of each improvement type was calculated and levels of significance were measured, using chi-square test and spearman rank correlation. When asked whether or not oil production has brought any improvement to the study area, the responses, as the distribution and percentages are presented in Table 5 shows that apparently, there were more responses in the oil producing area (895) than there were in the non-oil producing area (448).

**Table 1. Showing Response on Improvement from Oil Production**

Response	Oil Producing	Non-Oil Producing
No Improvement	447 (48.2%)	7 (1.6%)
Improvement	448 (51.8%)	441 (98.4%)

Source: Author's Field Survey, 2011

**Table 2. Frequency of Responses on Improvement**

Types of Improvement	Frequency	Percentage
Increment in property value	128	13.9
Improvement in infrastructure	125	13.6
Building of university	124	13.5
Construction of canal	86	9.3
Social activities	79	8.6
Improvement commerce	50	5.4
Awareness about our right	48	5.2
Learning boat building	47	5.1
Civilization	37	4.0
Improved income	35	3.8
Improved level of education	34	3.7
Increase in sales	35	3.8
Scholarship for indigenes (govt and oil companies )	33	3.6
Constructions of jetty	29	3.1
Greater demand for fish	23	2.5
International recognition	08	0.9
TOTAL	921	100.0

Significant at .000 P-Value

Source: Author's Field Survey, 2011

Surprisingly, more respondents in the oil producing area observed no improvement than in the non-oil producing area. Though, the aggregate responses also show more responses in favour of improvement in the oil producing area than in the non-oil producing area. To examine the relationship in improvement between the two sub-regions in the study area, precisely, the researcher used phi coefficient ( $\phi$ ) by building a scheme of cells and calculated their marginal totals. Then a value varying between -1 and +1 indicating how strong the relationship is was calculated.  $\phi = 0.48$  (positive and moderate correlation). This result shows that some degree of relationship exists between the oil producing and non-oil producing areas, in terms of improvement brought by oil production into the study area.

**Table 3. Specific Improvement Observed by Respondents in Oil Producing Area**

TYPES OF IMPROVEMENT	ILAJE		ESE-ODO		TOTAL	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
Construction of canal	42	12.1	44	7.6	86	18.2
Social activities	33	9.5	30	6.7	63	13.3
Learning boat building	25	7.2	22	3.8	47	10.0
Improved Commerce	21	6.1	22	3.8	43	9.1
Awareness about right	25	7.2	15	2.6	40	8.5
Scholarship for indigenes	13	3.7	20	3.4	33	7.0
Civilization	17	4.9	13	2.2	30	6.4
Construction of jetty	16	4.6	13	2.2	29	6.1
Increase in sales	16	4.6	12	2.1	28	5.9
Improved income	14	4.0	14	2.4	28	5.9
Improved level of education	12	3.5	8	1.4	20	4.2
Greater demand for fish	12	3.5	4	0.7	16	3.4
International recognition	2	0.6	5	0.9	7	1.5
Increment in property value	0	0.0	1	0.2	1	0.2
Improvement in infrastructure	0	0.0	1	0.2	1	0.2
Building of university	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
TOTAL	248	100.0	224	100.0	472	100

r = 0.917 (Positive Correlation), P &lt; 0.01 = 0.000: Statistically Significant (Spearman)

r = 0.446 (Positive Correlation), P &lt; 0.05 = 0.030: Statistically Significant (Kendall's)

Source: Author's Field Survey, 2011

Though, quantitatively, the oil producing area is better off in infrastructure count; qualitatively, the non-oil producing area felt impulse of development better than the oil producing area; statistically, people in both sub-regions were not satisfied with the level of performance of the infrastructural facilities available in their respective communities. Respondents in both areas were yearning for better development and improved quality of life.

In Table 2, it was observed that respondents who believed that oil production has led to improved property value was 13.9%, almost at par with responses on improved infrastructure (13.6%) and building of a University (13.5%). Respondents who indicated construction of canals that ease their movement between communities and provides the link with the upland communities had 9.3%. Responses such as improved commerce, learning of boat building, improvement in income, increase in sales and greater demand for fish which had 5.4%, 5.1%, 3.8%, 3.8% and 2.5% respectively meant economic empowerment which collectively took 15.6% of the total responses. Generally, about half of the respondents in the area were dissatisfied by the so called improvement. This is a basis for social discontent prevalent in the area as demonstrated by 49.8% of the respondents (Table 1), believing that oil production has not brought any improvement to their various communities.

When this result was subjected to statistical test, using chi-square, the result revealed 0.000 P-value, which means that responses of the people to the difference in the level of improvement brought by oil production to the oil producing and non-oil producing areas as expressed by the respondents is statistically significant.

### Intra-Regional Comparison of Specific Improvement

Table 3 shows comparison between Ilaje and Ese-Odo Local Government Areas in the oil producing sub-region while Table 4 indicates the pattern of responses of the people in Okitipupa and Irele Local Government Areas. As there were variations intra-regionally, so there were variations inter-regionally, though responses on certain variables revealed that local government areas in each of the sub-regions shared the same opinions.

**Table 4. Specific Improvement observed by Respondents in Non-Oil Producing Area**

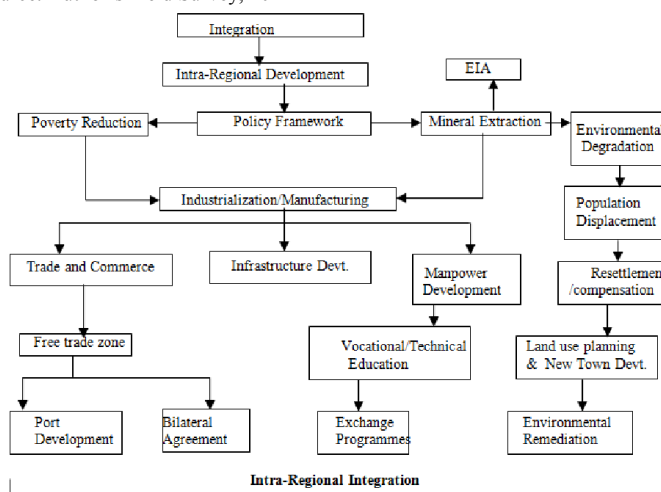
TYPES OF IMPROVEMENT	OKITI PUPA L.G		IRELE L.G		TOTAL	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
Increment in property value	71	30.7	56	25.6	127	28.9
Improvement in infrastructure	55	23.8	69	31.9	124	28.2
Building of University	71	30.7	53	24.3	124	28.2
Improvement level of Education	7	3.0	7	3.2	14	3.2
Awareness about right	5	2.2	3	1.4	8	1.8
Social activities	7	3.0	0	0.0	7	1.6
Improved Commerce	2	0.9	5	2.3	7	1.6
Civilization	0	0.0	7	3.2	7	1.6
Improved income	7	3.0	0	0.0	7	1.6
Increase in sales	4	1.7	3	1.4	7	1.6
Greater demand for fish	1	0.4	6	2.8	7	1.6
Int'l recognition	1	0.4	0	0.0	1	0.1
Construction of canal	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Learning of boat building	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Scholarship for Indigene	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Construction of jetty	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>100</b>

r = 0.590 (Positive Correlation), P < 0.01 =0.016: Statistically Significant (Spearman)  
 r = 0.446 (Positive Correlation), P < 0.05 =0.030: Statistically Significant (Kendall's)  
 Source: Author's Field Survey, 2011

**Table 5. Inter - Regional Comparison of Improvement**

Type of Improvement	Oil Producing	Non-oil Producing	TOTAL
	Freq.	Freq.	Freq.
Increment in Prop. Value	1	127	128
Improved in Infrastructure	1	124	125
Building of University	0	124	124
Construction of Canal	86	0	86
Social Activities	63	7	70
Improved Commerce	43	7	50
Awareness on our Right	40	8	48
Boat Building	47	0	47
Civilization	30	7	37
Increase in Sales	28	7	35
Improved Income	28	7	35
Improved Education	20	14	34
Scholarship for Indigenes	33	0	33
Construction of Jetty	29	0	29
Greater Demand for Fish	16	7	23
International Recognition	7	1	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>912</b>

$\chi^2=12.12$ , df= 1, P< 0.05 = 0.000: Statistically Significant  
 r = 0.246 (Positive Correlation), P < 0.01 =0.000: Statistically Significant  
 Source: Author's Field Survey, 2011



Source: Author's Device, 2012

**Fig. 1. Intra-Regional Spill-Over Scheme**

In the oil producing area, construction of canal was the most important improvement indicated by the respondents but the percentage was higher in Ilaje (12.1%) than Ese-Odo Local Government (7.6%). On all of specific improvement mentioned, Ilaje Local Government had larger percentage than Ese-Odo Local Government. In the non-oil producing area, as Table 4 reveals; increment in property value, which was the 14<sup>th</sup> in the rank of improvement in the oil producing area was the 1<sup>st</sup> in rank; 30.7% in Okitipupa Local Government and 25.6% in Irele Local Government. Improvement in infrastructure and building of University were of the same importance to the people of non-oil producing area as both variables shared the same total count and percentage. The correlation tests conducted, as shown in the tables, show 0.000 P – value, which is less than 0.05 and 0.01 significance levels. This means that there is a significant difference in the improvement brought by oil production between the two sub-regions in the study area.

### The Inter-Regional Dimension of Specific Improvement

Comparing the two sub-regions, we can infer that the needs, preferences and desires of the people in the two sub-regions were different though the  $\emptyset$  showed some level of relationship. The analyses show that construction of canal, which was the first on the list of improvement mentioned in the oil producing area, got zero response in the non-oil producing area. It was the same for learning of boat building and construction of jetty.

Whereas, increment in property value, improved infrastructure and building of University led on the list of specific improvement mentioned by the people of the non-oil producing local government areas, the three variables were the last on the list of the oil producing area. The analyses also reveal that people in the oil producing area had access to scholarship while it was non-existent in the non-oil producing area. This may not be divorced from the fact that government and oil companies do give scholarship to the indigenes of the oil producing sub-region. Specific improvements with great percentages in the oil producing area were of zero percentages in the non-oil producing area and vice versa. The chi-square test carried out showed 12.12 calculated value with df as 1 and 0.000 P-value, which is highly significant. This means that there is a significant difference in the improvement brought into the study area between the two sub-regions. With spearman positive correlation of 0.246 and P-value of 0.000, which is lower than 0.01 critical level, responses to the question on improvement brought by oil production is significantly different between the two areas.

### Recommendation: Intra-Regional Integration

Hass Ernst (1958) developed the concept of spill-over, and Lindberg (1963) applied it in his regional integration studies. The concept was based on: on an achieved action, an action has to be taken for the original goal to be achieved, another action has to be taken, and for that other action to work, a situation must arise whereby another action must be taken, which also creates a condition for further action(s) to be taken and so forth. So, for each component of the intra-regional integration between the oil – producing and non-oil producing sub-regions to work, other aspects of the project must be

properly packaged and activities effectively linked. This must instigate some steps that must be taken by the regional central government (Ondo State Government), as shown in Figure 1 below, which may also trickle down to the local government administrations of the sub-region concerned. Finally, application of the proposed Intra-Regional Integration to the development of the study area is anchored on the principle of development of areas of comparative advantage of each constituent unit of the area (oil producing and non-oil producing units). This is in line with the work of Anadi (2005) who opines that “better specialization is ensured as producers concentrate on the areas in which they have advantage; this is better positioned to exploit large scale economies, while at the same time restructuring the regional economy to enhance the production base of the region.

Also, trade-induced integration, which is synonymous to ‘real’ integration is considered more compatible and very relevant to the achievement of intra-regional integration as opposed to policy-induced integration, which can also be interchangeably used for ‘formal’ (institutionalized) integration. Ondarts (1992:6) submits that generally, ‘real’ integration usually yields better economic and socio-political benefits more than ‘formal’ integration. For the study area, both real and formal intra-regional integration can be applied, exploiting the advantages of the two and avoid the disadvantages of both.

### Conclusion

Viewing it generally, the non-oil producing areas in Ondo State are better off in terms of both perceived and real improvements brought by oil production into the two sub-regions, in terms of physical infrastructural facilities and socio-economic development indices. This finding is in agreement with the assertion of Bunker (1985) thus;

*“When natural resources are extracted from one regional ecosystem to be transformed and consumed in another, the resource exporting region loses values that occur in its physical environment. These losses eventually decelerate the extractive region’s economy while the resource consuming communities gain values and their economy accelerate” (Bunker, 1985).*

This situation also confirms the position of Carter and Jones (1989) that;

*‘The presence of natural resources in a particular region may be a development liability. This can happen if exploitation of the resources causes degradation of the physical environment without implementation of necessary amelioration measures, while the proceeds from the resources is used to develop other regions within the same state’.*

In essence, the oil producing sub-region of Ondo State, Nigeria suffers for the development of the non-oil producing sub-region of the state.

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