



**PERSONALITY FACTORS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS AS PREDICTORS OF TENDENCY TO VANDALIZE THE NIGERIAN OIL PIPELINES AMONG IJAW YOUTHS**

**Social Sciences Research**

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**ABSTRACT**

The study investigated personality factors and socio-economic status as predictors of tendency to vandalize Nigerian oil pipelines among Ijaw youth. A total number of two hundred and nineteen (219) youths drawn from five towns (Amassoma, Boma, Ekeni and Ayama) in Oporoms district, Ijaw local government area of Bayelsa State served as the participants for this study. They were selected through systematic sampling technique; their age ranged from 18 – 43 years and their mean ages was 29.35 with standard deviation of 6.87. They consisted of 116 males and 103 females. Two instruments were used “The Big Five Personality Inventory (BFP), a 44 – item scale, which measured the Big Five Factors (dimensions) of personality. Each of the factors is then further divided into personality facets. It was developed by John and Srivastava, (1999), and tendency to vandalize scale (TVS) which contains 18-items and has a reliable internal consistency coefficient. The Hypotheses were tested at  $p < .05$  level of significance. The results of the study indicated in the first hypothesis that openness to experience significantly predicted the tendency to vandalize oil pipeline. Conscientiousness did not significantly predict the tendency to vandalize oil pipeline. Agreeableness did not significantly predict the tendency to vandalize oil pipeline. Neuroticism did not significantly predict the tendency to vandalize oil pipeline. The result of the socio-economic status on the High, Medium and Low did not significantly predict the tendency to vandalize oil pipeline among Ijaw youths. The researcher therefore recommends that the government should ensure the establishment of rehabilitation homes in affected cities, where offenders with predisposing personality traits and vulnerable personality traits to vandalize oil pipeline are kept for observations and reformation.

**Keywords:** Personality Factors, Socio- economic Status, Tendency to Vandalize, Oil Pipelines, Nigerian, Ijaw Youth

## **Introduction**

The oil pipelines vandalism in Nigeria is an unpleasant and destructive phenomenon that no individual or group or persons should tolerate if development is desired. This study is topical and timely especially in this 21<sup>st</sup> century where both the layman and the elites of Nigerian are worried about the economic situation of their father land. All over the world today, vandalism has been perceived as criminal act, which are considered to be at odds with social, morals and common decency, or damaging to the interests of the community, as it is the case with the hijacking of passengers' plane and hostage taking of the innocent people for purposes of blackmail, the planting of bombs at large gathering, the mining of railway lines for the purposes of protest demonstration, subversion or sabotage. The undertaking of retaliations by some countries against other countries, and the victims which are in the centre of all these catastrophes are sometimes innocent (Kashima, 2003, cited in (Kelman, 2010).

Vandalism is not just a perceived phenomenon in Nigeria, it is real and felt all over the country, states, intra-state or internationally. It is real because all the factors that precipitate vandalism are very outstanding, coupled with the fact that Nigeria is economically and politically unstable. (Ayodele 2012; Ogundiya, Amzat; 2008), rightly noted that in Nigeria today, the threat of vandalism is highly unprecedented. Ogundiya & Amzat, (2008), also rightly noted that in Nigeria today, the threat of vandalism is constantly present, which is characterized by wilful damage of property which is on the high side, and many Nigerians are economically deprived as a result of pandemic corruption and gross mismanagement or national resources by our political gladiators. Nigeria is the most populous black nation of the world with a total population of 150 million citizens as of the 2006 Census and a youth population of 80 million, representing 60% of the total population with a growth rate of 2.6% per year (National Bureau of Statistics-NBS, 2018).

It is fortified with various resources (natural, physical, and material); which, if harnessed could lubricate and engineer the nation's economic growth. Amosun, Sotononde, Ayodele (2013) and Anayochukwu (2008) rightly noted that the untapped human resources, unfavourable economy and political instability in Nigeria over the years have resulted in a high propensity for criminal behaviour and violence among the youth. Ibrahim (2006)'s survey of children and youth in organized armed violence in Nigeria, showed that disenchantment and frustration of young people due to mass poverty and unemployment has increased the number of aggrieved youths and resulted in the emergence of area boys and Al-majiris who target the very society that alienated them. He concluded that armed militant groups in Nigeria such as Bakassi Boys, Odua Peoples' Congress (OPC) and Egbesu Boys were made up of youths within 16 - 17 years (40%), 18 - 19 years (10%), 20 - 21 years (20%), and 20 - 23 years (20%).

However, violent crime and radicalization among the educated youths has also been on the increase. These incidents of youth crime have created some scenes at local and

international levels. The unwelcoming aspect of the episode is that the number of recruits, the density of active crime participants, and the sophistication of operations are of major concern, which created an atmosphere of apprehensiveness among the populace (Alemika & Chukwuma, 2006; Egwakhe & Osabuohien, 2010).

Vandalism is an act that disrupts the progress of communities, plays down on the integrity of the people and jeopardizes the economy of the nation. Oil pipeline vandalism is a subject matter that has dominated socio-political as well as academic discourse within Nigeria and among Nigerians. The reason being that securing and maintaining such government asset plays a vital role in a nation's development process. Crude oil remains the central point to which Nigeria as a nation depends largely on for survival. A nation whose economies are characterized by structural rigidities, high level corruption and weak security network cannot attest that she has the potentials to be addressed as a developed or developing nation.

Therefore, the eradication of the crime of oil pipelines vandalism is very crucial, and the Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps is saddled with the responsibility of protecting and preventing vandalism of major government infrastructures including the oil pipelines. The corps is empowered to institute legal proceedings through the Attorney General of the Federation in accordance with provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria against any person or persons suspected to have committed an offence, maintains an armed squad in order to bear fire arms. It later metamorphosed into the present Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps in 1970, saddled still with the responsibilities of educating and enlightening the civil populace on enemy attacks and how to save themselves from danger as most Nigerians living in and around Lagos then had little or no knowledge about war and its implications.

There is the outcry of poverty among the estimated 150 million Nigerians, especially people in the rural areas. Human beings have died of inferno as a result of pipeline vandalism and properties worth billions of naira are being wasted as a result of pipeline fire incident. Also worrisome is the depletion of ecosystem, where Micro-organisms, animals on lands are in extinct, and aquatic lives and splendour destroyed. The report of Daily Trust Newspaper (June, 2013) reveals that 6,000 Nigerians died of pipeline fire incidents in 5years. On the other hand, the petroleum and National Gas Senior Staff Association President (PENGASSAN), Mr. Babaturnde Ogun reported that Nigeria loses 6 billion US dollars' worth of crude oil annually as a result of pipeline vandalism, and also lost 105 billion naira annually to theft of refined products. Officials of pipelines and products marketing Company (PPMC) who are deployed to effect repairs on the broken pipelines often, taste the vandals' weapons. They are killed and buried in shallow graves. The menace of vandalism is a threat to development of human, communities, state and nation. The activities of the vandals have led to various psychological illnesses among victims, because they have recorded loss of close relatives and properties. Any knowledge that can contribute to the solution of the problem of pipeline vandalism in Nigeria is important and relevant.

There are tendencies which personality factors can predispose one to commit crimes such as vandalism, terrorism and robbery. People who cannot contain their urges to

harm or kill people for no apparent reason often suffer of some personality disorders. According to a 2012 Survey of Mental Health by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, a diagnosable mental illness afflicts about 350 million people worldwide, that is 25% of nations population, such as (the United States, Colombia, France, Ukraine, and New Zealand, having the highest rates), However, just as only 5% of this mentally ill population are so severely impaired that they cannot work, and it's likely that about the same number are dangerous to others. The mentally ill are particularly susceptible to social stress and often misinterpret cultural phenomena. When stressed, they can be dangerous, and their cruelty or desire to harm others may reflect more a personality trait than a symptom of mental illness, or a mixture of both. In other words, they may be crueller than crazy: they may be choosing not to exercise self-control; they may choose wrong over right; and they may or may not know exactly what they are doing.

A certain degree of overlap exists between personality traits and the symptoms or mental illness. The human "personality disorder" fall into this category, and the one thing that can be said is that they are definitely not insane according to the consensus of most scholars (Samenow, 2014). In such cases, they usually fall into one or three personality types that are typically considered aggravating circumstances, in addition to their legal guilt. Antisocial personality disorder (APD), sociopath, or psychopath, and none of which are the same as insanity or psychosis. Antisocial personality is the most common type, afflicting about 4% of the general population. Sociopaths are the second most common type with the American Psychiatric Association estimating that 31% of all males in their society are sociopaths, and Stout (2005) estimated 4% of the population are psychopaths.

The emergence of the "the Big five-factor model" is as a result of the attempt to further reduce Cattell's 16 factor to just five Universal dimension (Digman, 1990: Golberg, 1993). The Big five may be the best answer to the question of personality. What are the most basic dimension of personality? If we will like to compare the personalities of two people, try rating them informally on the five dimensions of this model. For factor 1, extraversion, and rates how introverted or extroverted each person is. Factor 2, agreeableness, refers to how friendly, nurturing, and caring a person is, as opposed to cold, indifferent, self-centered, or spiteful. A person who is conscientious (factor 3) is self-disciplined, responsible, and achieving. People low on this factor is irresponsible, careless, and undependable. The fourth factor Neuroticism refers to the presence of negative, upsetting emotion. People who are high in neuroticism tend to be anxious, emotionally sour and irritable. Finally, people who rate high on factor 5, openness to experience, are intelligent, open to new ideas, and interested in cultural pursuits (Digman, 1990). The beauty of this model is that almost any trait you might name will be one of the five factors.

Socio-economic status (SES) is an economic and sociological combination of total measure of a person's work experience and of an individual's or family's economic and social position in relation to others, based on income, education, and occupation. When analyzing a family's SES, the house hold income, earners' education, and occupation are

examined, as well as combined income, whereas for an individual's SES only their own attributes are assessed. However, SES is more commonly used to depict an economic difference in society as a whole (National Cancer for Educational Statistics, 2008). Socio-economic status is typically broken into three levels (high, middle, and low) to describe the three places a family or an individual may fall into. When placing a family or individual into one of these categories, any or all of the three variables (income, education and occupation) can be assessed.

Additionally, low income and education have been shown to be strong predictors of a range of physical and mental health problems, including respiratory viruses, arthritis, coronary disease, and schizophrenia. These problems may be due to environmental conditions in the workplace, or, in the case of disabilities or mental illnesses, and may be the entire cause of that person's social predicament to begin with (Goode, 1999). Education in higher socio-economic families is typically stressed as much more important, both within the household as well as the local community. In poorer areas, where food, shelter and safety are priority, education can take a backseat. It is important to note that youth audiences are particularly at risk for many health and social problems in the United States, such as unwanted pregnancies, drug abuse, act of vandalism and obesity. (Hunt, 1972).

### **Statement of Problem**

Nigeria is the largest oil producing Country in Africa and was the world's fourth leading exporter of liquefied natural gas LNG in 2012. Despite the relatively large volumes it produces, Nigeria's oil production is hampered by instability and supply disruptions, while the natural gas sector is restricted by the lack of infrastructure to monetize gas that is currently flared. Although Nigeria is the leading oil producer in Africa, production suffers of supply disruptions, which have resulted in unplanned outages as high as 500,000 barrels per day. The oil and natural gas industries are located in the Niger Delta region, where it has been a source of conflict. Local groups seeking a share of the wealth often attack the oil infrastructures, forcing companies to declare force majeure (a legal clause that allows a party to not satisfy contractual agreements because of circumstances that are beyond their control that prevent them from fulfilling contractual obligations) on oil shipments. At the same time, oil theft, commonly referred to as "bunkering," leads to pipeline damage that is often severe, causing loss of production, pollution, and forcing companies to shut down its production. There are speculations whether the Big-five factor personality components will be used to assess the predisposing personality traits of the Ijaw youths in the act of vandalization of the oil pipelines. Another speculation raised is whether the socio-economic status will also be used to assess the predisposing status of the Ijaw youths in the act of vandalization of the oil pipeline.

Therefore, this study wants to investigate whether personality factors; of extraversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness, neuroticism and openness to experience could predict the act of Vandalisation of oil pipe lines among Ijaw youth. The study will also investigate whether socio-economic status of (High, Mideum and Low strata) will predict the act of vandalization of oil pipeline among Ijaw youth. Based on the foregoing; this

study will answer the following questions. (a) Would personality factor such as; extroversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness, neuroticism and openness to experience predict the tendency to vandalize the Nigerian oil pipe lines among Ijaw youth? (b) Would differences in socio-economic status predict tendency to vandalize the oil pipelines among Ijaw youth?

### **Purpose of the Study**

The general purpose of this study is to ascertain whether personality sub types of extraversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness, neuroticism and openness to experience and socio-economic status categorized into (High, Medium and Low) will predict the act of vandalization of oil pipelines among Ijaw youth. Specifically, the study will investigate if the Big-five personality inventory will predict the act of vandalization of the oil pipelines among Ijaw youth. The study will also investigate if Socio-economic status will predict the act of vandalization of the oil pipelines among Ijaw youth.

### **Relevance of the Study**

This research on, personality and socio-economic factors as predictors of tendency to vandalize oil pipe lines will aid the qualified psychologists in channelling their therapeutic programmes to the vulnerable Ijaw youths who are into this act of vandalism for proper psychological rehabilitation. Secondly, school counsellors will be acquiring more knowledge from this study; which will help them in handling young people within the Niger Delta on the dangers inherent in vandalizing the Nigerian oil pipelines. Again, it will create a body of empirically, derived literature for use by subsequent researches in this area of study.

### **Review of Related Literature**

Oil pipeline vandalism is a subject that has dominated socio-political as well as discourse within Nigeria and among Nigerians. The reason being that securing and maintaining such government asset plays a vital role in a nation's development process. Crude oil remains the central point to which Nigeria as a nation depends largely on for survival. A nation whose economies are characterized by structural rigidities, high level corruption and weak security network cannot attest that she has the potentials to be addressed a developed or developing nation. And therefore the eradication of the crime of oil pipeline vandalism is very crucial.

Vandalism is a form of petty crime that is difficult to study (Buck, et al., 2003). The intentional destruction of property is popularly referred to as vandalism. It includes behaviour such as breaking windows, breaking oil pipelines, and slashing tires, spray painting at wall with graffiti and destroying a computer system through the use of a computer virus. Vandalism is a malicious act and may reflect personal ill will, although the perpetrators need not know their victim to commit vandalism. The recklessness of the act imputes both intent and malice (Legal dictionary, 1992).

Vandalism is behaviour contrary to the dominant norms of the society. That is, it is a deviant behaviour. It is the ruthless 'destruction or spoiling of anything beautiful or

venerable (Oxford English Dictionary, 2008). The term also includes criminal damage such as graffiti and defacement directed towards any property without permission of the owner. Vandalism is a term used to describe several different types of damage to property (Cooper & Carolyn, 1997). Definition of vandalism varies by jurisdiction and depends on the social context of the act. The same act can be judged very differently in different societies but the general vandalism refers to: "Willful or malicious destruction or defacement of any public or private property without the consent of the owner or persons having control" (Bessette, 1996, P.817). In criminal damage Act 1971. Chapter, 48 under English Law, vandalism is defined as: "Intentionally or recklessly destroying or damaging any property belonging to another without lawful excuse".

Among Criminologists and Psychologists, there are conflicting and contrasting views on the causes of vandalism. Goldstein (1996) pointed out that the causes of vandalism should have been investigated in the specific aspect of physical or social environment and the motives of vandals. Property rather than individuals is typically the target, and witnesses usually are limited (Buck, 2003). Studies about preventing vandalism are often based on two viewpoints (Roos, 1992), and they are situational and motivational. The situational; is based on the influence of opportunities and possibilities in the built environment to prevent vandalism and the motivational; means that vandalism grows out of inner motivation and born out of a need by the perpetrators. According to Goldstein (1997), based on situational and motivational explanations, vandalism prevention programs are the person oriented strategies that 'seek to reduce potential or actual vandal's motivation to perpetrate such behaviour' or environmental oriented strategies (crime prevention) through environmental design strategies that 'seek to alter the physical setting, context or situation in which vandalism might occur. Both explanations indicate that the causes of vandalism should be sought in types or cultures and quality of physical and social living environments among individuals.

In order to better understand the causes of vandalism, different types of vandalism have been adapted by Criminologists from Cohen's typology (1973 as cited in Geason, 1989) as a framework on the basis of their motives. He offers acquisitive, tactical, ideological, vindictive, play and malicious subtypes and explains that vandalism resides not just in persons but in the nature of their environment. Since the majority of vandalism is opportunistic (Barker & Bridgeman, 1994) and knowing that change of culture among individuals will require long time and income cases and such culture changes are not possible; de-opportunist vulnerable environment is known as the key to prevent vandalism (Wise, 1982). Urban design as a framework that orders the elements into a network can change the physical setting of the cities. This can make urban areas functional and attractive. It also can establish processes that make development possible. Knowing that not all the motivations of vandals can be eliminated, the way of designing the urban environment and city spaces can play a leading role to prevent crimes such as vandalism. This study attempts to rate different environmental factors that influence the occurrence of vandalism of oil pipe lines among Ijaw people. Based on situational prevention strategies, these factors can either motivate vandals or they can give vandals opportunities to vandalize.

Peer influence is a key factor to vandalism. Teenagers are usually more susceptible to peers. Peers are an important component in shaping one's personality. Peer influence will shape the attitudes, values and behaviour of a teenager, especially teenagers who have dropped out of school and face the problems in their family unit. Normally, teenagers who commit vandalism are adolescents in the group. This group does not have any purpose and are trapped in the culture of loitering. They gather wrong ideologies that include defacing and damaging of public properties. Parents are another driving force to the nature of vandalism among teenagers. Some teens that get caught up in the symptoms of vandalism came from troubled families where families inculcate negative cultural practices. In addition, the lack of perfect control and guidance from parents are also among the many factors: influencing youths that are stuck in negative behaviours.

Mass media has much influence and impact which is very strong and difficult to be avoided today. The display of negative scenes from movies or shows from the west that has elements of behaviour towards vandalism can influence youth towards vandalism. Teenagers usually easily imitate and follow things seen around including mass media, let alone without guidance and appropriate directives. Indifference of the society is also a factor in the occurrence of symptoms of vandalism. Adolescence is a product of a community system. Dysfunctional society will eventually produce some flawed products, the attitude of some people now concerned more about the materialism and indifferent to social issues certainly complicate the existing problems. Teenagers defacing and damaging public property rather than being educated had been rampant and the generations of such teenagers born in the city are very difficult to control. In urban areas some people do not care about what is happening around them. Thus the youth feels that they are free to pursue their chosen type of life regardless of the negative symptoms of a sense of responsibility towards public property. Vandalism per se is sometimes considered one of the less serious common crimes, but it can become quite serious and distressing when committed extensively, violently or as an expression of hatred and intimidation.

### **Psychological Theories of (Crime) Vandalism**

*Psychoanalytic Theory* Psychoanalytic theory, developed by Freud (1961), states that all humans have natural drives and urges that are repressed in the unconscious mind. Therefore, all humans have criminal tendencies. These tendencies are curbed, however, through the process of socialization. A child that is improperly socialized could develop a personality disturbance that causes him or her to direct antisocial impulses either inward or outward. Those who direct them inward become neurotic while those that direct them outward become criminals.

*Rational Choice Theory* According to many criminologists, choice theory presents perhaps the most common reason why, criminals do the things they do. This theory suggests that the offender is completely rational when making the decision to commit a crime (Siegel, 2005). The variety or reasons, for which one offends, can be based on a variety of personal needs, including revenge, greed, anger, lost, jealousy and vanity. The

rational choice theory has its root in classical school of criminology which was developed by an Italian "social thinker" Cessare Beccaria (Siegel. 2005, P 99). Classical criminology, suggest that people have a free will to choose either criminal or conventional behaviours and that crime can be controlled only by the fear of criminal sanctions (Siegel. 2005). In rational choice, there are three models of criminal behaviour: Rational actor, predestined actor and victimized actor. The rational actor proposed that the individual decides whether to commit crime or not. With this belief crime could simply be controlled by increasing the penalty of offending individual (Burke, 2001). The predestined actors, proposes that criminals cannot control their personal urge and environment and thus, inducing them to commit crime. This problem can be solved by changing the biological, sociological and psychological environment of the offender (burke. 2001). The victimized actor model, proposes that crime is the result of the offender being a victim of an unequal society. Thus, crime could be controlled by reforming legislation (Burke. 2001).

*Eysenck's Theory of Crime* This British Psychologist is well known for his theory on personality and crime. He proposed that "criminal behaviour occurs as the result or an interaction, between certain environmental conditions and features of nervous system" (Bartol and Bartol, 2008, P 99). This is however, not one of the main theories of crime; rather Eysenck's emphasis was placed on genetic predisposition towards antisocial and criminal behaviour. The followers of this theory assumed that every individual offender, has a unique neuro-physiological make-up that when exposed to a certain environment cannot help but result to criminality (Bartol and Bartol, 2008). It is very necessary to point that Eysenck was not postulating that criminals are born rather that the combination or certain environment, neurological and personality indices gave rise to different types of crime and that different personality types were more susceptible to some kinds or criminal activity. Eysenck explains that criminality is not innate but certain peculiarity of the central and autonomic nervous system that react with the environment with upbringing and many other factors are implicated to increase the chances that a giving person would act in a certain antisocial manner (Eysenck and Gejdenson, 1987). Eysenck (1997) suggested that three personality dimensions were connected with antisocial behaviour.

In brief, these dimensions included Extraversion (E) Neuroticism (N), and Psychoticism (P). Eysenck (1977, 1997) and Eysenck and Eysenck (1985) stated E is associated with difficult conditioning, N was believed to amplify behavioural antisocial tendencies, and P to be an expression of egocentrism, lack of guilt and hostility. Empirical support, however, is mixed for these relations (Romero. Luengo. & Sobral, 2001). Specifically: (1) although a strong and clear relationship has been reported between P and ASB (antisocial behaviour), (2) a weaker relationship appears to exist between Nand ASB, and (3) the relationship between E and ASB remains unclear. Hence to sum up Eysenck's theory of criminality, the nature and nurture interaction is a major determinant of behaviour, which could be criminal or conventional behaviour. When these behaviours render mostly, it will lead to high show of extraversion (critical arousal), high level of neuroticism (autonomic arousal), and are more tough minded in

the psychotic-sense. Although, many others see it that if new data were modified, the theory as a whole may still be benefiting and useful (Bartol and Bartol, 2005).

**Trait Theory** Research evidence supports many aspects of Eysenck's theory. However, in recent years, a consensus has emerged that five factors, which overlap imperfectly with Eysenck's three dimension, best characterize personality structure (Wiggins & Pincus, 1992). Although these five factor models are not accepted by all personality researchers (Block, 1995; Eysenck, 1992; Pervin, 1994), they now serve as touchstone for most discussion of trait structure. The movement towards the five- factor model represented attempts to find structure among the large lists of traits that Allport and Odbert (1936) had extracted from dictionary. The traits were boiled down into about 200 synonyms clusters that were used to form bipolar trait dimensions: dimension that has a high pole and a low pole, such as responsible versus irresponsible. The five dimensions are very broad, because each brings into one large category many traits that have unique connotations but a common theme. These five dimensions of personality are now called the five- factor model or, more informally, the Big five (McCrae & Costa, 1999). We will notice again that each dimension is bipolar- terms that are similar in meaning to the name of the dimension that describe the high pole, and terms that are opposite in meaning describe the low pole.

The dimension in the five- factor model were derived from ratings collected in the 1960s, using several different sets of adjectives and many different participant samples and rating tasks. Since then, very similar dimensions have also been found in personality questionnaire, interviewer checklist, and other data. (Costa & McCrae, 1992a; Digman, 1990; Wiggins & Pincus, 1992). To demonstrate the universality of five-factor model, researchers have broadened their studies beyond the English Language: The five-factor structure has been replicated in a number of languages including German, Portuguese, Hebrew, Chinese, Korean, and Japanese (McCrae & Costa, 1997). The five factors are not meant to replace the many specific traits terms that carry their own nuances and shades of meaning. Rather, they outline taxonomy- a classification system – that allows you to give a description of all the people you know in ways that capture the important dimension on which they differ. The five factor models originally emerged from statistical analysis of clusters of trait terms, rather than from a theory that said, "These are the factors that must exist" (Ozer &Reise, 1994). However, researchers have started to demonstrate that these are differences in the ways that individuals' brains function that correspond to trait differences in the five factor model.

Lombroso believed that offenders were atavists. The word atavism refers to "an ancient ancestral trait that appears in modern life". He stated that criminals were Neanderthal-Likebeings born by some unexplained evolutionary glitch, into the modern world (Schechter, 2003). Because offenders were considered a flash back to the historic past, there were certain characteristics that were supposed to be identifiable. These features were considered to look more primitive and ape-like. These distinguishing characteristics were small skull, slopping fore head, jutting brows, protruding ears, bad teeth, barrel chest, disproportionately long arms and other various traits (Schetcher,

2003). Unfortunately, Lombroso trait theory has been compared to the nineteenth century pseudo-science of phrenology (Schetcher, 2003). However, today we all know that criminals come in various shapes, colours, size and age.

### **Contemporary trait theories as a theoretical frame work**

The modern trait theories, do not suggest that a single physical or biological attribute explains all criminality. Rather, each criminal has a unique set of characteristic that explains his behaviour. The understanding is now split among many possibilities. Some have inherited criminal tendencies. Some may have neurological problems, and yet other research shows that some criminals may have blood chemistry disorder which heightens antisocial activity (Schechter 2003). There is a definite link between behaviour patterns and chemical changes in the brain and nervous system.

Bio Criminologists believed that crime is genetically predetermined, they maintain that the body needs stable amount of minerals and chemicals for the normal brain functioning and growth. Chemical and mineral imbalance lead to cognitive and learning deficits and these factors in turn are associated with antisocial behaviour (Schechter, 2003). Research has linked hypoglycaemia to violence, and abnormal levels of male sex hormones to aggression or aggressive sex behaviours (Schechter, 2003). Other psychological correlates of antisocial behaviour and crime are low serotonin level, low autonomic arousal and impaired prefrontal cortical functioning. According to Weber (2004), many of the genes associated with crime affect the neurotransmitter systems. A gene that confers sensitivity to dopamine may increase sensation seeking, which is a characteristic of antisocial behaviour such as vandalism.

### **Method**

#### **Participants**

A total number of two hundred and nineteen (219) youths drawn from five towns (Amassorna, Azuzuama, Boma, Ekeni and Ayama) in Oporoma district, Ijaw local government area of Bayelsa State served as the participants for this research study. The sample size of population of this study was determined based on the average number of youths in these towns, and these five towns in Bayelsa was selected based on the fact that the Nigerian oil pipeline passed across their home lands. The consisted of 116 males and 103 females and were selected through systematic sampling technique, their age ranged from 18 to 43 years and their mean age was 29.35 with standard deviation of 6.87.

#### **Instrument**

The instrument used in the study was adapted from Big Five Personality Inventory (BFP), a 44 - item scale, which measured the Big Five Factors (dimensions) of personality. Each of the factors is then further divided into personality facets. It was developed by Goldberg (1993) and recreated by (John, & Srivastava, 1999). The second instrument was Tendency to Vandalization of Oil Pipeline Inventory (TVOPI). It contains 18-items measuring tendency for youths to engage in criminal of vandalism. It was developed by (Abamara & Nwajei, 2017), for the purpose of this study.

The researchers took the instrument to the experts, who vetted the instrument, for content, construct and face validity. This Psychological Inventory has a five point likert response format of (5) strongly agree (4) Agree (3) Undecided (2) Disagree and (1) Disagree. The items 6 to 10 are in reverse order of response. Any respondent that scored on the norm of 56.2 and above on (TVOPI) have the tendency to vandalize while any respondent that scored below this score do not have such tendency. The researcher joined the two scales to form a single questionnaire and then added some demographic variables like; gender, age marital status, and occupation. Thereafter, the researcher conducted a pilot study to determine the present reliability level of the instruments using thirty-two (32) participants comprising of undergraduate students from Department of Psychology, Delta State University. Abraka in Ethiope East local Government Area of Delta State. The Alpha coefficient reliability of 0.86 was obtained in big five personality inventory, and 0.89 obtained on tendency to Vandalization scale.

### **Procedure**

The researchers went to Oporobo 1 district in Southern Ijaw local government area of Bayelsa State, Nigeria. They visited five towns namely: Amassorna, Ayama, Azuzuarna, Borna and Ekeni. They introduced themselves, and the purpose of their visit was made known to them through the traditional heads of this towns. They were assured of absolute confidentiality in their response. However, they responded positively to the study, but out of two hundred and thirty-five (235) copies of the questionnaires distributed in these towns, only 219 copies were properly filled and thus were used for the study. The researchers spent fifteen (15) days in administering and retrieving the copies or the questionnaires.

### **Design and Statistics**

The researcher conducted a survey study and adopted a predictive correlation design, and linear multiple regression analysis were used to test the hypotheses of this study.

### **Results**

The result of the statistical analysis of the data obtained in the study is presented in tables 1, 2, and 3. Table 1: presented the summary of means and standard deviation of personality factors on tendency to vandalize the Nigerian oil pipeline among Ijaw youth. Table 2: presented the ANOVA of personality factors on tendency to vandalize the Nigerian oil pipe line among Ijaw youth. Table 3: presented the summary of regression analysis on personality factors as predictors of tendency to vandalize the Nigerian oil pipeline among Ijaw youth and finally table 4 presented the regression analysis on socio-economic status as predictors of tendency to vandalize the Nigerian oil pipe line among Ijaw youth.

**Table 1: Summary table of mean and standard deviation of neuroticism, agreeableness, and openness to experience, extraversion and conscientiousness on tendency to vandalize the Nigerian oil pipeline among Ijaw youth**

	Mean	Standard deviation	N
Vandalisation	86.84	92.94	219
Extraversion	25.91	5.10	219
Agreeableness	29.50	6.00	219
Conscientiousness	30.68	5.12	219
Neuroticism	29.09	5.32	219
Openness to Exp'	5.04	5.04	219

Table one above indicated that there are significant mean differences in the mean scores of personality factors (extraversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness, neuroticism and openness to experience) in relation to the pipeline vandalization among Ijaw youth. The result above showed that participants with conscientiousness trait recorded the highest mean of 30.68, followed by the participants with extraversion trait that recorded the mean of 25.91, the participant with agreeableness trait recorded the mean of 29.50, participants with neuroticism trait recorded the mean of 29.09 and participants with openness to experience trait recorded the mean of 5.04.

**Table 2: Summary table of ANOVA**

Model	Sum of square	Df	Mean square	F	Sig
Regression	72629.36	5	14525.87	1.71	.13
Residual	1810453.36	213	8499.78		
Total	1883082.72	218			

a. Predictors: (constants) extraversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness, neuroticism. And openness

b. Dependent Variable: Tendency to Vandalize the Nigerian oil pipeline.

The ANOVA (analysis of variance) table above indicates that all the predictor variables (extraversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness, neuroticism. and openness to experience) put together did not predict tendency to Vandalization of the Nigerian oil pipeline among Ijaw youth. That is, the overall model is not significant at ( $F = 1.71, P > 0.13$ ).

**Table 3: Summary table of regression co-efficient on Personality as Predictors of tendency to Vandalize the Nigerian oil Pipeline among Ijaw youth.**

Model	Unstandardized coefficients		Standardized coefficients	T	Sig
	B	Std. error	Beta		
Constant	74.35	41.47		1.79	.07
Extraversion	4.18	1.90	.23	2.20	.03
Agreeableness	.79	1.60	.05	.50	.62
Conscientiousness	.42	1.93	.02	.22	.83
Neuroticism	1.07	1.57	.06	.68	.50
Openness	-5.11	2.11	-.27	-2.42	.02

**a. Dependent Variable:** Tendency to Vandalize the Nigerian Oil Pipeline.

The table above shows that Neuroticism, Conscientiousness and Agreeableness did not significantly predict tendency to vandalize the Nigerian oil pipeline among Ijaw youth because their levels of significance was above .05, but extraversion and openness to experience significantly predicted the tendency to vandalize Nigerian oil pipe line among youths, because their level of significance is below .05. The result showed specifically that openness to experience significantly predicts the tendency to vandalize the Nigerian oil pipeline among Ijaw youth at  $R(5, 218) = 0.27$   $P = 0.02$ . Therefore, the result was accepted in this subtype of personality. The result showed specifically that conscientiousness did not significantly predicts the tendency to vandalize the Nigerian oil pipeline among Ijaw youth at  $R(5, 218) = 0.02$   $P = 0.83$ . Therefore, the result was rejected in this subtype of personality. The result showed specifically that extraversion significantly predicted the tendency to vandalize the Nigerian oil pipeline among Ijaw youth at  $R(5, 218) = 0.23$   $P = 0.03$ . Therefore, the result was accepted in this subtype of personality.

The result showed specifically that agreeableness did not significantly predict the tendency to vandalize the Nigerian oil pipeline among Ijaw youth at  $R(5, 218) = 0.05$   $p = 0.62$  Therefore the result was rejected in this subtype of personality. The result finally showed specifically that neuroticism did not significantly predict the tendency to vandalize the Nigerian oil pipeline among Ijaw youth at  $R(5, 218) = 0.06$   $P = 0.50$ . Therefore, the result was rejected in this subtype of personality. In other words, not all the predictor variables were statistically significant in predicting the tendency to vandalize the Nigerian oil pipeline among Ijaw youth. The result of the beta weight showed that personality traits of extraversion contributed 23% to the vandalization of the Nigerian oil pipeline among Ijaw youth. Agreeableness personality trait contributed 5% to the vandalization of the Nigerian oil pipeline among Ijaw youth. Conscientiousness personality trait contributed 2% to the vandalization of the Nigerian oil pipeline among Ijaw youths. Neuroticism personality traits contributed 6% to the vandalization of the Nigerian oil pipeline among Ijaw youth, and finally, the openness to experience

personality traits contributed 27% to the vandalization of the Nigerian oil pipeline among Ijaw youth.

**Table 4: Summary table of Regression co-efficient on socio-economic status as predictors of the Nigerian oil pipeline vandalization among Ijaw Youth**

Model	Unstandardized coefficients		Standardized coefficients	T	Sig
	B	Std. error	Beta		
Constant	53.55	3.705		14.46	.000
High SES	1.299	.984	.091	1.320	.188
Medium SES	1.463	1.297	.080	1.128	.261
Low SES	.766	.832	.064	.920	.358

The table above show that High socio-economic status did not significantly predict tendency to vandalize the Nigerian oil pipeline among Ijaw youths at  $R(3,218) = .091$ ,  $P > .188$ . Therefore, the hypothesis was not accepted in this subtype of socio-economic status. The table above also shows that medium socio-economic status did not significantly predict tendency to vandalize the Nigerian oil pipeline among Ijaw youths at  $R(3,218) = 0.80$ ,  $P > .261$ . Therefore, the hypothesis was not accepted in this sub-type of socio-economic status. The table above finally shows that low socio-economic status did not significantly predict tendency to vandalize the Nigerian oil pipeline among Ijaw youths at  $R(3218) = .064$ ;  $P \sim .358$ . Therefore, the hypothesis was not accepted in this sub-type of socio-economic status.

The result of the Beta weight showed that participants with high socio-economic status contributed 91% to the vandalization of the Nigerian oil pipeline among Ijaw youth. The participants with medium socio-economic status contributed 80% to the vandalization of the Nigerian oil pipeline among Ijaw youth, and the participants with low socio-economic status contributed 64% to the vandalization of the Nigerian oil pipeline among Ijaw youth.

## **Discussion, Recommendations and Conclusion**

### ***Discussion***

The present study investigated the personality factors and socio-economic status as predictors of tendency to vandalize the Nigerian oil pipelines among Ijaw youths. The result showed that openness to experience significantly predicted to the tendency to vandalize Nigerian oil pipeline among Ijaw youth. Therefore, the result was accepted in this subtype of personality. The findings of this study did not agree with the findings of John, Caspi, Robins, Moffitt, and Stouhmer-Loeber (1994) who found that delinquent boys were more likely to have lower scores on openness than non-delinquent boys. This means that delinquent boys are less likely to be open to experiences than non-delinquent boys, a finding that seems counter-intuitive. Heaven (1996) in his study observed that males scored significantly higher than females on the delinquency scale and were also more likely to engage in both; interpersonal violence and vandalism/theft.

However, on personality, females were shown to score significantly higher than males on all five factors. But despite these differences between the sexes, there were no significant relationships between openness to experience and delinquency for either sex. Clower and Bothwell (2001) from their findings would suggest that an individual who is less open is also more likely to be arrested. However, in contrast to the above findings, Laak, de Goede, Aleva, Brugman, Van Leuven, & Hussmann (2003) tested only girls and found that girls with higher scores on openness to experience reported more delinquency than girls with lower scores on the same scale. In determining the relationship between the five factors and specific types of crime, openness to experience was positively correlated with fighting, vandalization and cheating, in contradiction to results previously reported. Girls who were more open were also more likely to fight, vandalize and cheat.

The result showed that conscientiousness did not significantly predicts the tendency to vandalize the Nigerian oil pipeline among Ijaw youth. Therefore, the result was rejected in this subtype of personality. This outcome is in inconsonance with the findings of Mak, Heaven. & Rummery (2003). They found that low scores on conscientiousness were significantly related to delinquency and vandalization for males and females. Among both sexes, individuals who were less conscientious were more likely to commit delinquent and vandalization acts. Hornsveld and de Kruyk (2005) in their study observed that all the patients had lower scores on conscientiousness than the norm group. To simplify this fact, all violent offenders in the sample tended to be less conscientious than a group of "normal" individuals (an average citizen). Again, Blicke, Schlegel, Fassbender and Klein (2006) observed that conscientiousness scores for the criminal group that committed white collar crimes were higher than that of the group of corporate managers. This finding would directly contradict that of Mak et al. (2003) by suggesting that more conscientious (responsible and achievement oriented) individuals are more likely to commit white collar crime than are corporate managers. Blicke et al. (2006) suggested that one reason for this finding could be the difference in the German versus the American definition of white collar crime.

The result showed that extraversion will significantly predict the tendency to vandalize the Nigerian oil pipeline. Therefore, the result was accepted in this subtype of personality. It was supported by the study of previous authors. It was found that the criminals were over represented on extraversion. Eysenck and Eysenck (1974) found that recidivists have significantly higher scores on extraversion than would be expected in a normal population. Again in 1977 Eysenck and Eysenck results indicated that extraversion among prisoners was only significant among the 40-59-year-old range. Though, for both prisoners and non-prisoners, extraversion generally decreased with age. Eysenck, Rust, and Eysenck (1977) tried to find a way to classify criminal behaviour based on personality. They attempted to determine if certain personality types were associated with specific types of criminal activities. Their results indicated that those convicted of confidence crimes, as well as violent and residual offenders, scored high on extraversion. Inadequate offenders and property offenders had low scores on extraversion. On the contrary, Bartol & Holanchock (1979) found that the criminal groups

did score significantly lower on the extraversion scale than the comparison group, which is a direct contradiction of Eysenck & Eysenck (1964) theory. Nevertheless, Rushton and Chrisjohn (1981) studied seven different sample groups. Their results showed that self-reported delinquency was significantly related to extraversion in five of the six samples. (Extraversion was not measured in sample I). More recently, Alexico and Norris (2000) found that extraversion had a significant positive correlation with crimes against people.

The result showed that agreeableness did not significantly predict the tendency to vandalize the Nigerian oil pipe line among Ijaw youth. Therefore, the result was rejected in this subtype or personality. The result showed that neuroticism did not significantly predict the tendency to vandalize the Nigerian oil pipeline among Ijaw youth. It did not agree with the results of (Carrasco, Barker, Tremblay, and Vitaro 2006). They observed that 101 boys following the high trajectories in physical aggression, theft and vandalism, the most important personality dimension were the psychotic characteristics (Empathy and Impulsivity). Extravert characteristics (Energy and Venturesomeness) also discriminated, although to a lesser extent, between the persistent trajectory and low-declining trajectory for each behaviour. In addition, the presence of Venturesomeness was associated with the persistent trajectories of vandalism and theft. These results provide considerable support for Eysenck's hypothesis concerning personality combinations of (1) psychotic traits (Impulsivity and Empathy), and (2) Impulsivity and extravert traits as predictors of antisocial behaviour.

The result also showed in hypothesis two, that high socio-economic status did not significantly predict tendency to vandalize the Nigerian oil pipeline among Ijaw youths. Therefore, the hypothesis was not accepted in this sub-type of socio-economic status. This finding reveals that the vandalization of oil pipeline among Ijaw youths is not a factor of belonging to high socio-economic status or not. Therefore, some Ijaw youths may still involve themselves in the vandalization of oil pipeline irrespective of belonging to a high socio-economic status. The result also shows in hypothesis two that medium socio-economic status did not significantly predict tendency to vandalize the Nigerian oil pipeline among Ijaw youths. Therefore, the hypothesis was not accepted in this sub-type of socio-economic status. This finding also reveals that vandalization of oil pipeline among Ijaw youths is not a factor of belonging to a medium socio-economic status or not. This finding reveals that Ijaw youth may still get involved in vandalization of Nigerian oil pipeline irrespective of belonging to a medium socio-economic status. The result finally shows in hypothesis two that low socio-economic status did not significantly predict tendency to vandalize the Nigerian oil pipeline among Ijaw youths. Therefore, the hypothesis was not accepted in this sub-type of socio-economic status. This finding reveals that the Ijaw youth may significantly involve in oil pipeline vandalization irrespective of belonging to a low socio-economic status. Based on the result of this study the Ijaw youths from high socio-economic status have the highest tendency to involve in the vandalization of Nigerian oil pipeline. The result of this study pointed to the fact that the high socio-economic status witnessed among Ijaw youth is as a result of pipeline vandalization and oil bunkering that are common in the Niger Delta areas. Apart from economic neglect and under development suffered by the people of Niger Delta, there

youths usually involve themselves in oil pipe line vandalization and oil bunkering for personal economic aggrandizement.

### **Conclusion**

From the findings, the researchers resolved and conclude that some personality factors such as extraversion and openness to experience have greater relationship with act of vandalization of the Nigerian oil pipeline among Ijaw youth. While agreeableness, conscientiousness and neuroticism have lesser relationship to the act of vandalization of the Nigerian oil pipeline among Ijaw youth; nevertheless, some other factors not accounted in this study must have contributed in their different measures in the vandalization of the Nigerian oil pipeline among Ijaw youth. The result also showed that the Ijaw youth with high socio-economic status have higher tendency to involve in the vandalization of Nigerian oil pipeline, followed by the Ijaw youth with medium socio-economic status, and finally the Ijaw youths with low socio-economic status. The vandalization of the Nigerian oil pipeline by Ijaw youth has being a huge economic loss to Nation judging from the amount of crude oil spillage being recorded annually from the Niger Delta region. The oil spillage brought about by the pipeline vandalization had lead to the destruction of aquatic life and farm lands in the Niger Delta region. Hence there is an urgent need to curb this ugly trend of pipe line vandalization in this region, to save the country from unprecedented economic sabotage and quagmire.

### **Recommendations**

The following recommendations arise from this study; (a) The federal government should clean up the oil producing communities in the Niger Delta region and provide employment and enabling environment for the youth to be independent and self-reliant. By so doing, it will go a long way to suppress the personality traits that may predispose them to involve in the act of vandalization of the Nigerian oil pipeline. (b) By the findings of this study, the federal government should understand that some people in the higher socio-economic status in towns studied in Bayelsa state who cannot give accurate account of the source of their wealth could be traceable to the vandalization of the oil pipeline and illegal oil bunkering. (c) The federal government should develop, urbanize and empower the youth of these communities in the Niger Delta region that provide over 70% of the Nigerian revenue, and give them adequate orientation on the dangers of vandalization of the oil pipeline.

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