

## **EDUCATION AND PEACEBUILDING IN AFRICA: A CRITICAL ANALYSIS ON POST CONFLICT NIGER DELTA, NIGERIA**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The purpose of this paper is to examine the peacebuilding initiatives in Africa with particular emphasis on the Amnesty program in Niger Delta, Nigeria and to find out whether it has achieved its goal of restoring peace and stability in the region. The introduction of the Amnesty program in 2009 resulted in suspending the violence but has so far not resolved the region's problems. Thus, a resurgence of violence may occur in the region except the undesirable socio-economic situations that fuelled militancy in the first place are addressed. This paper examines the Amnesty program, using content analysis of relevant secondary data that highlights the experiences and perceptions of the ex-militants who participated in studies of Tobor (2014) and Odubo (2014). Findings from both studies demonstrated that the Amnesty program is a good step towards peace building in the region. However, a holistic approach to development of the region must be taken to compliment the progress made so far. The significance of the study is that the results may help African nations particularly the Nigerian government enhance its youth education and training programs. Recommendations include consultations with key stakeholders and inclusion of all youths in the educational and vocational training programs that will cater to essential needs of the majority of the inhabitants of the Niger Delta region. The social significance of these recommendations may help prevent a return to militancy and violence and thus promote greater social, economic, and political stability in the region.

**Keywords:** Africa, Amnesty program, conflicts, crisis, education, Niger Delta, Nigeria, peacebuilding, post conflict.