

## Editorial

Over the years, the Niger Delta region has been in the radar of global research due to her numerous social challenges ranging from militancy, high rate of teenage pregnancy, kidnapping, pipeline vandalism, environmental degradation, etc. While, there have been journals within the region focusing exclusively on environmental or political issues, other journals have simply adopted a multi-disciplinary approach in their publications. Hence, there seems to be a knowledge gap in existing journals as none is completely dedicated to the sociological study of the Niger Delta Region. It is on this note that we have the great pleasure of announcing the maiden edition of the Niger Delta Journal of Sociology and Anthropology (NDJSA), an official journal of the Department of Sociology, Niger Delta University, Wilberforce Island, Bayelsa State, Nigeria. Though, the pioneering effort of this journal dates back to the early 2000s when the department of sociology was founded, but not until recently that the effort of both pioneering and new staff of the department has come to fruition. Thus, NDJSA was formally introduced in 2020 to the global research community as an effort to understand the social peculiarities and problems confronting the Niger Delta region and Nigeria at large.

While the scope of the journal is geared towards a sociological discourse of the Niger Delta region, issues within the Nigerian state and Africa at large are also highly welcome as most social problems within the African region are not independent of one another. Hence, NDJSA welcomes research, reviews, commentaries, case studies, and note to the editors which adopt a sociological or anthropological view of issues. The primary objective of NDJA is to encourage, promote, guide and disseminate high quality and original research papers which might be very useful for policy recommendations, and also increase the knowledge-base of social science practitioners. It is on this note that every work to be published in NDJSA shall be subjected to the rigorous peer-review process and academic standards.

It is expected that as the journal progresses in its journey to attain a world-class standard, improvements will be made subsequently in line with global best practices. Already, efforts are being made to register the journal with African Journal Online (AJOL) CrossRef. and distribute it under the creative commons license. This will, no doubt, give the journal very high visibility in the global community. The journal also hopes to metamorphose from its current biannual status to at least a quarterly publication.

The timely publication of this maiden edition would not have been possible without the efforts of our reviewers and advisers. On this note we wish to express our profound gratitude to all our reviewers and advisers; your continual collaboration as gatekeepers to the academic community is still highly solicited. We will not forget to acknowledge our esteemed contributors who chose to publish with us even at our infant stage. We hope that you will consider and recommend our journal to other colleagues around the globe. Finally, we wish to appreciate the support of

members of the Department of Sociology, the Faculty of Social Sciences, and the Niger Delta University administration who provided the platform for this journal to be hosted.

This maiden edition of the journal contains seven papers drawn from different areas of specialisation within sociology and anthropology, namely, medical sociology, sociology of development, criminology, industrial sociology and environmental sociology. The contributors cut across almost all the geo-political zones in Nigeria, with all their articles recommended for publication by the reviewers after major and minor corrections. This, no doubt, has set the journal on a very high pedestal. We conclude by calling others within the academia, development planners and policymakers, researchers and postgraduate students especially within the Niger Delta Region to consider our journal in publishing their research findings, and solicit other forms of support for the journal to prevail.

**Dr E.A. Sibiri**

Editor-in-Chief

Department of Sociology,

Niger Delta University, Wilberforce Island, Bayelsa State, Nigeria.

**Tel:** +2348064761059. **Email:** [elliotsibiri@ndu.edu.ng](mailto:elliotsibiri@ndu.edu.ng)