

With reference to named examples, discuss how the extraction of energy sources can bring positive and negative impacts to an area.

Extraction of energy sources takes place world wide and the extraction of the same source can have different impacts depending on the area. Oil is extracted from Norway and Nigeria and the impact on the countries varies hugely. These areas have to be managed well and monitored closely. We can see these effects in countries like Norway, Nigeria and regions like the Middle-East.

A positive impact that energy extraction can have on a country is a huge increase to their GDP. This gives the country more money to spend on improving any areas that make their country better.

The extraction of energy sources generating a higher GDP has a large effect on a country's political status. We can see this currently in the Middle-East, as countries that are extracting oil are seeing their GDP rising hugely. The extraction of energy sources gives them the power over many countries's energy supply, which gives them political power over other countries. This has meant that their political status has been boosted.

We can see from the extraction of energy sources in Norway that it can have a profound impact on their area and their society. This can have a positive impact on an area as it can bring a rise in income locally, as many well off businessmen and employed people will spend their money in the shops and services. This puts it into a business spiral of money as people spend money in the shops and local businesses, These businesses can afford to expand and develop, allowing them to do well in comparison to the rest of the country and the world and therefore the extraction of energy sources are positive for an area as it will make the area's businesses better and more competitive.

As the local businesses grow, they will begin to need more employees. The extraction of energy resources has opened up many job opportunities to the Norwegian people. This is doing three things. Firstly, more jobs are making the unemployed number in Norway fall dramatically. This brings in more revenue into the economy as they are maximising their countries resources. This means that they need to spend less money on importing products from other countries. They also might be able to export the products that they don't need. This, in turn, makes the countries economy stronger in comparison to many others and allows the Norwegian government to give the Norwegian people a better standard of living and a better pension. It will allow the country to become far wealthier and expand in other areas of life.

With this type of area, the services that are offered to the residents are better than of those in less economically developed countries, as they are having more money being invested in them by their government. Therefore these services are becoming more efficient, resulting in making people feel safer and be able to get on with their lives easier than before the extraction of the energy sources. With the better influences on the younger generations, their country will evolve into a more developed country.

With an area that has a low unemployment number, there will be far less crime and the area will be a much nicer area to live and work in. Also, it will be a better area to bring up children, as they will be less influenced by others breaking the law and be more influenced in learning and becoming successful in life. This will attract many

well-off people that will want to live in these areas and this will make the area even better.

However, there are also many negative impacts that can be sustained on an area due to the extraction of energy sources. We can see this from the oil exploitation in the Niger Delta in Nigeria. In Nigeria there has been a large amount of corruption in the Niger Delta as up to 70% of the oil extraction revenue is being taken by the government and other corrupt leaders. To make things even worse the Ogoni leader and close followers were killed and imprisoned for protesting about oil. This shows that the government are not bothered about the people living in these areas and are so corrupt and selfish that they are willing to kill peace protestors. They have come down with what has been described as an 'iron fist'.

This is depriving the people of the Niger Delta of the section of the revenue that should be theirs. This is making living tough for these people as the average Nigerian is living on \$1 a day. This is a very small amount to feed themselves and often their family. This means that many people have to find other ways of making extra money. This is being done in the form of crime and tapping oil. 10% of the oil extracted in the Niger Delta is illegally tapped off.

With a large amount of oil being tapped off by non-professionals and employees that are not properly changed, there is being a huge amount of oil being split. In the Niger Delta, \$10,000,000 of oil is being split every day in Nigeria. This is leading to large amounts of the natural environment being destroyed for many different reasons.

These environments are also home to many endangered species of animals and birds. The pollution from energy extraction is putting their lives at risk. These animals and birds were attracting large amounts of tourism to the Niger Delta. This was bringing in substantial amounts of money to the country and the local community, allowing it to improve and supply jobs as tour guides and hotel staff. Now this has all gone, the oil has also seeped into the local water supply doing two things. First of all, it has contaminated the local community's water supply meaning that to carry on living the local community has had to spend large amounts of money to buy fresh water for their people or distil the water that they already have. This means that they are spending unnecessary money for a basic need. Secondly, the local community's main industry, fishing, is being destroyed by the pollution from the oil exploitation in the Niger Delta. Around 60% of West Africa's fish are from the swamp land that is being polluted by the oil. This means that many fish are being killed, therefore, wiping out this industry and destroying families incomes. This has meant that many people have moved trades from fishing to the oil industry.

This pattern of moving industries is the general of pattern for the whole 131 million people that live in Nigeria, very much to the expense of the Niger Delta as 23 million people now live here. This has led to new towns and cities to be built quickly and of poor quality, in what used to be a beautiful area. This has lead to a scar on the natural environment as these towns are messy and very unattractive. Also, with the large amount of immigrants to these parts to try and find wealth in the oil industry there has been a huge boom in the population here and often there are not enough houses to accommodate these people, resulting in many people living on the streets. These people are trying to survive and therefore doing what they need to get money and food, usually this is breaking the law and these areas are becoming very dangerous.

The danger is no more crucial in the terms of the Movement of the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MotEofND) which is the armed rebel group that in

2006 intensified attacks on oil platforms and pumping stations. They are to blame for \$6,000,000 of damage to oil platforms and pumping stations in 2005. They are protesting about the international businesses coming into their country using their resources, destroying their natural environment, ruining many lives and taking all the money back to their own country. One of these companies is Shell, the world-wide known business. They are doing what they need to make as much money as they can in the Niger Delta, at the expense of the people living there. They are making billions of dollars from the Delta with their workers living in awful conditions and many people around their depots living in poverty and they are doing nothing to help them. In the country that has the biggest oil reserves in Africa, they are only interested in making maximum profit. Therefore MotEofND are not worried about the damage they are causing to the international businesses, but want to get their point across to the world and Greenpeace so that they can help them in this battle.

Due to these awful human rights and campaigning in Nigeria, Greenpeace has stepped in to try and bring a deal between the people, the government and the businesses. All they have succeeded to achieve is to arrange compensation for people living in the Delta, but this is extremely hard to get and very few people have received it. Many people have seen an opportunity here, and have taken the chance to move to the Delta. With the large amount of people moving here from all different areas and from different religions and ethics, there have been many conflicts.

In conclusion, we can see that there are both positive and negative impacts on an area that extracts energy sources. The positive side of things are very lucrative with the huge GDP, the greater political status, an improved standard of living and an altogether a more developed country. But this has to be managed very well for this to happen, as we have seen in Norway and the Middle-East. If this is not managed properly, then things can go drastically wrong, as we can see from Nigeria. The standard of living is poor, many industries have been wiped out, many people, animals and birds have lost their lives at the expense of wealth and it has turned the countries leaders very corrupt.