

## Original Research Article

# Improved Safety Performance in Nigeria Oil and Gas Industry: A Comparative Analysis of Risk Model

## ABSTRACT

This study examined a risk-based intervention model to enhance safety performance in Nigeria's oil and gas sector. A non-probabilistic convenience sampling method was adopted to treat the selected five oil and gas companies used for this study. A quantitative approach was employed using a comprehensive hazard checklist developed based on industry standards and expert insights, utilizing a structured questionnaire to collect data from industry experts, workers, and stakeholders on hazard likelihood and severity. The 392-sample size used was selected purposively to represent the total population of oil and gas workers in these companies. From the 392 copies of the questionnaire administered, 357 copies were used for the study, with a response rate of 91.07%. The analysis revealed key risk factors for oil and gas offshore operations such as structural failure due to poor design, valve and seal failures, security threats, fire/ explosions, blowouts, and oil spills. Modelling the risk score against the likelihood showed a good model fit ( $R^2 = 0.831$ ), indicating that the model explains 83.1% of the variance, and the likelihood coefficient was positive and significant. Modelling the risk score against the severity also showed a reasonably good fit ( $R^2 = 0.676$ ), with the severity coefficient being positive and significant. However, modelling the risk score against both likelihood and severity showed excellent fit ( $R^2 = 0.994$ ), explaining 99.4% of the variance. The likelihood and severity coefficients were positive and highly significant, indicating that increases in either factor led to increases in the risk score. These models provide a quantitative way to assess risk in the oil and gas industry based on the key factors of likelihood and severity of potential hazards. This study bridged theoretical risk management concepts with practical applications and provided actionable recommendations for policymakers, and significantly enhancing safety performance in a crucial economic sector.

*Keynote: Questionnaire, Assessment, Hazardous, Likelihood, Severity, Modelling Risk Management*

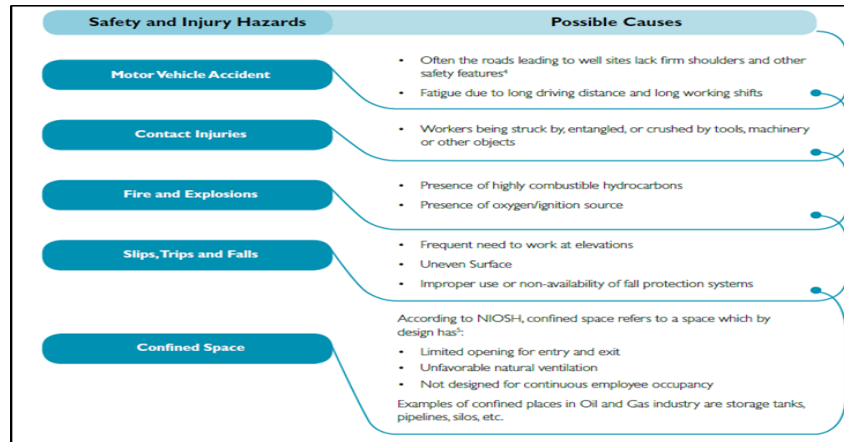
## INTRODUCTION

Owing to its substantial contribution to GDP and status as the principal generator of export revenue, the oil and gas sector has historically occupied a critical position within Nigeria's economic sphere [1]; [2]. The sector holds significant importance for the Nigerian economy, contributing over 70% of the country's revenue through product exports [3]. Nigeria, according to [4], is among the continent's leading oil and gas producer. Oil also accounts for a large portion of the nation's GDP, foreign exchange earnings, and budgetary revenues [5]. Several safety concerns, including workers accident, equipment malfunctions, pipeline sabotage, and oil spills beset the country's oil and gas sector. The consequences of these incidents, illustrates the gravity of the issues from fatalities, extensive environmental damage, and substantial financial losses [6].

From 2018 to 2022, approximately 412 people were killed because of negligence in the storage and distribution of petroleum products. These deaths were primarily attributed to fires at fuel retail stations and tanker accidents, highlighting the sector's lack of adequate health, safety, and environmental practices [7]. The tugboat, Jascon-4, capsized in May 2013 while performing towing operations for Chevron Offshore Escravos, killing 12 crew members. This incident could have been avoided if proper safety precautions, such as upgraded safety jackets and others[8].

More than two millennia ago, the Athenians displayed proficiency in risk assessment [9]. However, the field of risk assessment and management as a scientific discipline is relatively new, having emerged within the last thirty to forty years. This is the era of the first academic journals, conferences, and publications that discuss the fundamental ideas and concepts of risk assessment and management. These fundamental concepts and ideas, which still influence the field today, are the source of the risk assessment and management procedures that have been in use since the 1970s and 1980s. Nevertheless, since then, the field has made tremendous strides. Thanks to a plethora of new and improved analytical tools, risk analysis is now used in almost every aspect of society [10]. Numerous industries, including finance, insurance, healthcare, oil and gas, safety engineering, environmental studies, and project management, rely heavily on the idea of risk and how to evaluate it [11].

[12] defines risk as the combination of the probability of an event happening and its consequences, which can be either beneficial or detrimental. As determined by [13], risk encompasses any potential hazard that can adversely affect organizations, economies, or societies. As per [14] definition, safety is devoid of unfavourable consequences, such as accidents and incidents. Safety can be classified as a characteristic or quality that is essential and sufficient to ensure that events that can cause harm to humans and the environment are maintained at a sufficiently low level. [15] define safety as effectively controlling unintentional damage to the environment, resources, and individuals to maximize benefits. According to [16], workers in the oil and gas industry are exposed to various safety hazards. They risk sustaining injuries such as slips, trips, falls, fire explosions, and being trapped in confined spaces, as shown in Figure 1.



**Figure 1: Safety and Health Injuries in the Oil and Gas Sector [17].**

Risk can also be defined as the likelihood of losing something of value, which can be physical (such as health or property), financial, or intangible (such as reputation). It refers to the effects of uncertainty on objectives, which may have positive or negative consequences, or both [18],[19]. Risk is often defined by sources, events, consequences, and likelihoods. Risk can come from inherent variability or uncertainties related to human behaviour, organizational structures, or societal influences that make it hard to predict any event. Thus, risk cannot always be quantified as events, consequences, and likelihoods [20]. [21] define risk as the product of the probability of harm occurring and the severity of the harm itself. The difference between risk is, in fact, a factor in the comprehensive evaluation of risk scenarios and possibilities. Risk is generally distinguished from hazard by the probability that an individual will sustain harm due to exposure to the hazard. [22] defines a hazard as an occurrence that has the potential to induce a negative consequence regardless of the circumstances. On the other hand, risk typically signifies the likelihood that an adverse effect will occur in actual or plausible situations, while also considering the substance's potency and the level of exposure to it.[17] categorized the risks in the oil and gas industry into two distinct classifications. The initial category encompasses safety hazards and potential harm, as illustrated in the Figure 1 above. The second category encompasses health hazards and the potential for illness.

Furthermore, [23] asserted that motor vehicle accidents are a widespread hazard to safety and injury in the industry, as illustrated in Figure 1 above. These accidents usually occur when travelling on dangerous routes or covering extensive distances. The diagram presented in Figure 1 demonstrates that workers in

oil and gas industries are susceptible to contact injuries, predominantly caused by tools and machinery.[24]reported that fire and explosion pose significant health and safety hazards in the oil and gas industry because of the abundance of highly flammable and other potential ignition sources. [[25], [26] highlighted the inherent biological hazards faced by workers in the oil and gas sector. It was also observed that workers commonly suffer from viral, parasitic, and bacterial infections. In addition, there have been reports of psychological hazards among these workers [27].

Risk assessment entails identifying risks, analyzing them, and using the insights gained to evaluate risk by drawing conclusions about their relative significance in relation to the organization's objectives and performance thresholds. This process helps to inform decisions about whether treatment is required, treatment priorities, and risk-reduction actions [20].



Figure 2: Risk Assessment to improve the four (PEAR) elements (Source: [20])

According to [24], [28], risk is defined as the effect of uncertainty on goals or objectives. This impact can manifest as beneficial, detrimental, or a departure from the anticipated outcome. The aim of this study is to identify as well as to characterize the critical risk factors contributing to Nigeria's oil and gas industry safety incidents and to develop a risk-based intervention model tailored to the identified risk factors.

## 2.1 Study Area

The study was carried out in the southern region (Niger Delta) of Nigeria. One of the largest in the world, this wetland is renowned for its rich biodiversity and is interconnected with the Niger River via an intricate network of creeks, rivers, and tributaries. Roughly 70,000 km<sup>2</sup> (27,000 sq mi) or 7.5% of Nigeria's total land area is made up of the Niger Delta [29]. The region, home to over 30 million people, is between latitudes 4°16'48" and 7°51'36" and longitudes 4°16'12" and 9°24'. Abia, Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross

River, Delta, Edo, Imo, Ondo, and Rivers are among its nine states. The production and exploration of oil and gas, which significantly boosts Nigeria's economy and the world's oil supply, depends on the Niger Delta. Human activity and the environment coexist in a delicate balance within the infrastructure, pipelines, wells, and oil fields.

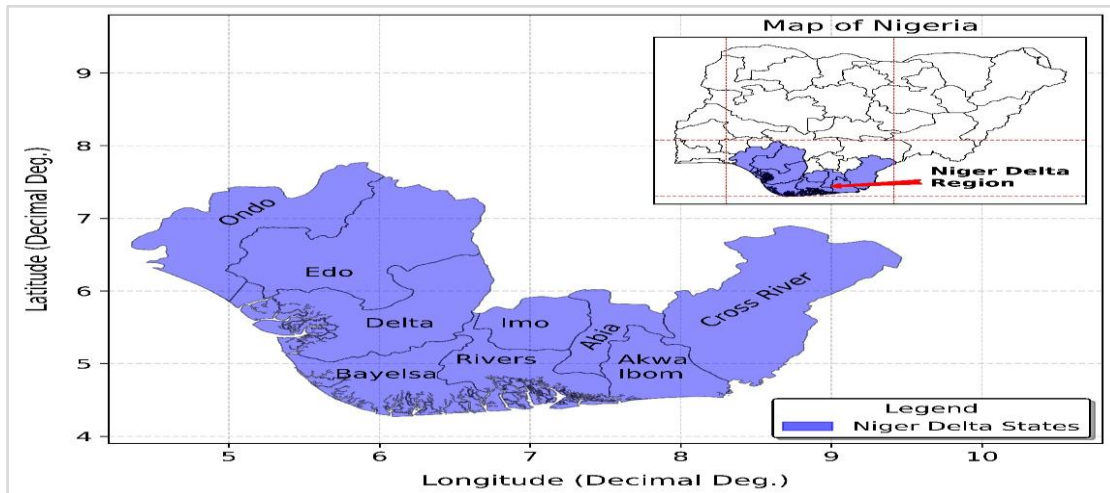


Figure 3: Map Showing the Study Area

## 2.2 Research Design

A quantitative research design approach was used in this study. With an emphasis on the Niger Delta, the research design was chosen to create a comprehensive risk-based solution for the oil and gas sector in Nigeria. To understand the risk environment of the industry, several thorough techniques were used, such as risk-based models, fault tree analysis, hazard checklists, qualitative risk assessments and questionnaires. For identifying hazards, a comprehensive hazard checklist was developed utilizing industry standards (ISO 17776) and professional expertise. The industry's common hazards were methodically identified and recorded using the checklist. After the hazards were identified, stakeholders, workers, and industry professionals in the Niger Delta's oil and gas sector were given a structured questionnaire. The purpose of the questionnaires was to collect professional opinions and ratings regarding the likelihood and gravity of various risks associated with the oil and gas sector. The mean, mode, standard deviation, minimum, and maximum values of the hazard ratings derived from the questionnaires were all computed as descriptive statistics. The quantitative analysis yielded significant insights into the perceived risk landscape of the industry. To identify patterns and trends in risk

perceptions, comparative analyses were also conducted with respect to differences in hazard ratings among various categories such as types of hazards and job roles. Additionally, quantitative information from checklists and questionnaires was used in qualitative risk assessment techniques. Using a qualitative approach, the risks connected to the identified hazards were thoroughly assessed. Each identified risk was evaluated for possible impact and likelihood of occurrence using expert opinions and industry-specific knowledge. A safer working environment in Nigeria's oil and gas industry can be developed through the integration of quantitative and qualitative findings in targeted risk-based interventions.

### **2.3 Study Population, Sampling Size and Technique**

A research population is a sizable group of people or things that are the subject of a scientific study. Researchers typically use sampling techniques because it is costly and time-consuming to test every member of the population. In this case, the study focused on workers who are employed by specific oil and gas companies in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria. These workers include male and female drivers, cleaners, and security personnel between 18 and 60. The sample size for this study was meticulously chosen to guarantee robust statistical analysis and dependable results. The study utilizes diverse sampling techniques to guarantee that the sample precisely reflects the population. Oil and gas companies were selected using a non-probabilistic method, specifically convenience sampling. The selection of this method was based on pragmatic factors such as the ease of access to the facility and the willingness of the company to participate. Only companies that permitted the collection of employee names and email addresses within their premises were deemed eligible and this gave rise to the selection of five businesses within the local area. Purposive sampling was used to select individual survey respondents. Individuals with previous experience in risk assessment, specifically in the oil and gas industry were deliberately selected for their expertise and applicability.

### **2.4 Sample Size Calculation**

$$n_o = \frac{1.96^2(0.63)(0.37)}{0.05^2}$$

$n_o = 350$  copies of questionnaire.

A 10% allowance is provided to account for those who do not participate but subsequently drop out (non-response rate and incomplete responses). The study requires a minimum sample size of 392 individuals who meet the inclusion criteria[30].

## **2.5 Nature/ Sources of Data**

Both primary and secondary data were used in the research project. Primary data were collected directly, as opposed to secondary data, which the researcher acquired indirectly. Copies of a structured questionnaire were given to a subset of Niger Delta oil and gas industry workers to gather primary data. These workers were selected from the workforces of the sampled companies and were instructed to assess their perceptions of hazards that were acknowledged using a Likert scale. The acquisition of secondary data involved conducting an extensive literature review on topics such as risk and risk assessment, risk management and controls, previous incidents in the oil and gas industry, safety management systems, and accident causation theories.

## **2.6 Methods of Data Analysis**

This study employed a thorough methodology to extract significant insights from the collected data. This included quantitative and qualitative methodologies. The following were used:

### **2.6.1 Descriptive Statistics**

The data collected from the questionnaire was analyzed using descriptive statistics. The mean likelihood and severity ratings were specifically calculated. The statistical method provided a precise understanding of the average opinions on the probability and seriousness of recognized hazards among the participants.

### **2.6.2. Qualitative Risk Assessment using the Risk Matrix**

A qualitative risk assessment was carried out with the aid of a risk matrix. This technique made it possible to categorize the hazards that were found according to their likelihood and severity ratings. Based on their ratings on a risk matrix, hazards were categorized as low, moderate, high, or critical. This qualitative evaluation highlighted areas of urgent concern and provided a visual representation of the entire risk landscape.

### **2.6.3 Risk-Based Modelling**

Risk-based modelling methodologies were used to assess and predict probable hazards that could emerge within the examined framework. Using historical data and insights gleaned from the analysis of the risk matrix and fault tree data, predictive models were constructed. The use of these models, which accounted for a multitude of variables and factors, enabled the estimation of probable risk scenarios. The risk-based modelling methodology provided a proactive strategy that facilitated the formulation of risk mitigation strategies.

## 2.7 Risk-Based Model Development

To develop a risk-based model, a regression analysis was used to establish the relationship between the risk score, which served as the dependent variable, and the likelihood and severity of the hazards occurring, and this served as the independent variables in the oil. The first risk-based model developed showed the relationship between the risk score and the likelihood of the hazard occurring. The second risk-based model developed showed the relationship between the risk score and the severity of the hazard occurring. The third risk-based model developed was a multiple linear regression showing the relationship between the risk score, which was the dependent variable, and the severity and likelihood of hazards as the independent variables. After the risk assessment, the risk score, the likelihood of the hazard occurring, and the severity of the hazard occurring were obtained. Equations 3.1 and 3.2 show the model equation form for the linear regression, while Equation 3.3 shows the multiple linear regression form[31], [45].

$$\text{Risk Score} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 * \text{Likelihood} \quad 3.1$$

$$\text{Risk Score} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 * \text{Severity} \quad 3.2$$

$$\text{Risk Score} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 * \text{Severity} + \beta_2 * \text{Likelihood} \quad 3.3$$

where  $\beta_0$  is the intercept,  $\beta_1$  and  $\beta_2$  is the regression coefficient.

Various goodness of fit indicators was used to assess the model's goodness of fit. The goodness of fit indicators and what they measure are described below:

**2.7.1 Coefficient of Determination ( $R^2$ ):** Calculated to assess the proportion of the variance in the risk score that can be explained by the likelihood of hazards.

**2.7.2 Adjusted R<sup>2</sup>:** Calculated to provide a reliable indicator of model fit while considering the number of predictors.

**2.7.3 Mean Square Error (MSE):** Used to quantify the average deviation between the predicted and observed risk scores, indicating the model's accuracy.

**2.7.4 Root Mean Square Error (RMSE):** Derived from MSE, it represents the standard deviation of the residuals, reflecting the model's predictive performance.

**2.7.5 Durbin-Watson Statistic (DW):** Examined to detect any autocorrelation in the residuals, as a violation of the assumption of independence can affect model validity.

**2.7.6 Analysis of Variance (ANOVA):** Conducted to evaluate the overall significance of the model, applying F-statistic and p-value to assess the strength of the predictors. The risk-based model developed provides a quantitative approach to assess and predict the risk scores associated with different hazards in the oil and gas industry. It assists in identifying high-risk hazards and supports decision-making processes related to risk mitigation strategies, resource allocation, and safety enhancement.

### **3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

#### **3.1 Risk-Based Modelling**

The result of modelling is present in this section. The model developed related the risk score obtained from the risk analysis with the likelihood and severity of the hazard occurring in oil and gas industry.

#### **3.2 Modelling the Risk Score against the Likelihood of Hazards occurring**

Table 1 presents the goodness of fit for the mode. The result from the goodness of fit showed good model fit as indicated by the coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ). The  $R^2$  stands at 0.831, signifying that the model explains approximately 83.1% of the variance in the data. The adjusted  $R^2$ , considering the number of predictors, is 0.826, indicating a robust fit. The mean square error (MSE) and root mean square error (RMSE) are 1.164 and 1.079, respectively, providing insights into the average deviation of observed values from predicted values. The Durbin-Watson statistic (DW) is 1.856, suggesting a lack of autocorrelation in the residuals.

Table 2 presents the result from the analysis of variance which unveils the model's significant effect. The model F-statistic is 157.321, with an extremely low p-value ( $< 0.0001$ ), indicating a strong influence of the predictors. Table 3 provides details on the model parameters. The Likelihood coefficient is 4.536, with a standard error of 0.362, demonstrating a highly significant positive impact on the risk score ( $p < 0.0001$ ). The result showed that as the likelihood of the hazard increases, there is a corresponding increase in the risk score and vice versa. Therefore, to reduce the risk of hazard occurring in the oil and gas sector, the likelihood of the hazard occurring should be reduced to the barest minimum.

**Table 1: Goodness of fit of the model**

Observations	34.000
Sum of weights	34.000
DF	32.000
R <sup>2</sup>	0.831
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	0.826
MSE	1.164
RMSE	1.079
DW	1.856

**Table 2: Analysis of Variance**

Source	DF	Sum of squares	Mean squares	F	Pr > F
Model	1	183.169	183.169	157.321	< 0.0001
Error	32	37.258	1.164		
Corrected Total	33	220.427			

*Computed against model  $Y = \text{Mean}(Y)$*

**Table 3: Model parameters**

Source	Value	Standard error	t	Pr >  t	Lower bound (95%)	Upper bound (95%)
Intercept	-3.619	1.170	-3.093	0.004	-6.003	-1.236
Likelihood	4.536	0.362	12.543	< 0.0001	3.799	5.272

Risk score =  $-3.619 + 4.536 * \text{likelihood}$

#### 4.3 Modelling the Risk Score against the Severity of the Hazards

Table 4 outlines the goodness of fit for the model, presenting key metrics that evaluate its performance. The coefficient of determination (R<sup>2</sup>) is 0.676, indicating that the model explains approximately 67.6% of

the variance in the data. The adjusted  $R^2$ , considering the number of predictors, is 0.666, suggesting a reasonably robust fit. The mean square error (MSE) and root mean square error (RMSE) are 2.229 and 1.493, respectively, offering insights into the average deviation of observed values from predicted values. The Durbin-Watson statistic (DW) is 1.956, suggesting a lack of autocorrelation in the residuals. Table 5 shows the analysis of variance which reveals a significant effect of the model. The model F-statistic is 66.881, with an extremely low p-value ( $< 0.0001$ ), indicating a strong influence of the predictors. Table 6 provides details on the model parameters. The Severity coefficient is 5.574, with a standard error of 0.682, demonstrating a highly significant positive impact on the risk score ( $p < 0.0001$ ). The result suggests that as the severity of the hazard increases, there is a corresponding increase in the risk score, highlighting the importance of addressing and mitigating severe hazards to reduce overall risk in the oil and gas sector.

**Table 4: Goodness of fit of the model**

Observations	34.000
Sum of weights	34.000
DF	32.000
$R^2$	0.676
Adjusted $R^2$	0.666
MSE	2.229
RMSE	1.493
DW	1.956

**Table 5 Analysis of Variance**

Source	DF	Sum of squares	Mean squares	F	Pr> F
Model	1	149.092	149.092	66.881	< 0.0001
Error	32	71.335	2.229		
Corrected Total	33	220.427			

*Computed against model  $Y = \text{Mean}(Y)$*

**Table 6: Model parameters**

Source	Value	Standard error	t	Pr>  t	Lower bound (95%)	Upper bound (95%)
Intercept	-7.934	2.314	-3.429	0.002	-12.647	-3.221
Severity	5.574	0.682	8.178	< 0.0001	4.186	6.962

Risk score =  $-7.934 + 5.574 * \text{severity}$

#### 4.4 Modelling the Risk Score against the Likelihood and Severity of the Hazards

Table 7 provides an overview of the goodness of fit for the model. The degrees of freedom (DF) are 31,  $R^2$  is exceptionally high at 0.994, indicating that the model explains approximately 99.4% of the variance in the data. The adjusted  $R^2$ , accounted for the number of predictors, and this remained at 0.994, confirming an excellent fit. The mean square error (MSE) and root mean square error (RMSE) are 0.040 and 0.200, respectively, showcasing the minimal average deviation of observed values from predicted values. The Durbin-Watson statistic (DW) is 1.902, suggesting a lack of autocorrelation in the residuals. In Table 8, the analysis of variance demonstrated a highly significant effect of the model. The model F-statistic is 2733.635, with an extremely low p-value ( $< 0.0001$ ), indicating a strong influence of the predictors. Table 9 presents the model parameters. The Likelihood coefficient is 3.296, with a standard error of 0.079, and the Severity coefficient is 3.218, with a standard error of 0.107. The model parameters for both likelihood and severity were positive, indicating that both the likelihood and severity of the hazard affect the risk score in a positive manner. An increase in both the likelihood and severity of the hazards would lead to an increase in risk.

**Table 7: Goodness of fit of the model**

Observations	34.000
Sum of weights	34.000
DF	31.000
$R^2$	0.994
Adjusted $R^2$	0.994
MSE	0.040
RMSE	0.200
DW	1.902

**Table 8: Analysis of Variance**

Source	DF	Sum of squares	Mean squares	F	Pr > F
Model	2	219.184	109.592	2733.635	< 0.0001
Error	31	1.243	0.040		
Corrected Total	33	220.427			

*Computed against model  $Y = \text{Mean}(Y)$*

**Table 9: Model parameters**

Source	Value	Standard error	t	Pr>  t	Lower bound (95%)	Upper bound (95%)
Intercept	-10.516	0.316	-33.239	< 0.0001	-11.162	-9.871
Likelihood	3.296	0.079	41.813	< 0.0001	3.135	3.457
Severity	3.218	0.107	29.972	< 0.0001	2.999	3.437

Risk score = -10.516 + 3.296 \* likelihood + 3.218\* severity

#### 4.5 Intervention for Structural Failure

[33] stated that risks associated with structural failure in oil and gas sector provided important information that calls for focused interventions. Respondents reached a consensus on the high likelihood of poor design or construction issues, emphasizing the urgency of addressing these concerns. The severity assessment indicated that poor design or construction could have catastrophic consequences, making it a top priority for mitigation efforts. Accidents impacting the platform were perceived as moderately likely but could cause severe damage. Interventions should focus on raising awareness about load limits, ensuring proper weight distribution, and mandating dynamic load assessments during platform design and operation. [30],[31],[32],[34] reported that poor safety culture may negate employee's safety behaviour at work, and this can consequently lead to injuries and accident even to third parties.

#### 4.6 Intervention for Gas Leak

Respondents overwhelmingly identified valve failure as highly likely to occur, ranking it as the top hazard in terms of likelihood. This consensus underscores the urgency of addressing maintenance and inspection protocols related to valves. Seal failure, while slightly less likely, still poses a significant risk. Proactive seal maintenance, regular replacements, and careful material selection are imperative interventions to mitigate this risk effectively. Design flaws, although perceived as unlikely, can have severe consequences if overlooked. Inadequate consideration of stress points, material compatibility issues, and the use of inappropriate materials were identified as root causes. [35] established that strengthening design evaluation processes, ensuring material compatibility, and adherence to industry standards are essential steps in preventing design-related gas leaks. Addressing material compatibility and

implementing protective measures against corrosion, such as coatings and inhibitors, are vital interventions to mitigate the risk of metal deterioration. Studies from [33] affirmed that safety management practices, a measure of organizational safety culture has an indirect and/or direct significant relationship on workers' behaviour in several high-risk companies in India. Also, studies from [6] reported that over 60% of participants acknowledged feeling pressured to put production first at the risk of their own lives and that of others.

#### **4.7 Intervention for Security Threat**

Respondents identified agitation by host communities as highly likely, indicating underlying socio-economic disparities and lack of community engagement. [36] Historical grievances and unresolved conflicts further exacerbate community agitation, emphasizing the need for community development initiatives and conflict resolution programs. Militant and kidnapper activities are driven by socio-economic challenges and perceived injustices, highlighting the importance of addressing root causes such as unemployment and environmental degradation [37], [38], [39], [46]. Implementing vocational training programs, educational initiatives, and promoting sustainable development in local communities can mitigate the factors driving individuals towards militant activities. Pipeline vandalism can be reduced by bolstering law enforcement, putting community-based environmental initiatives into action, and improving transparency in the oil and gas industry.

#### **4.8 Intervention for fire, explosion and Oil Spills**

Implementing stringent safety guidelines for storage facilities, along with routine inspections and maintenance, can mitigate the risks. Implementing strict safety protocols, including fire watch personnel, flame arrestors, and using advanced welding technologies, can enhance the safety of hot work activities. For Corroded Pipelines, inadequate inspection and maintenance practices, exposure to corrosive environments, and aging infrastructure contribute to pipeline corrosion and potential oil spills. [41], [42]. [43], [44] Studies emphasize the importance of implementing regular inspections by utilizing advanced technologies such as intelligent pigging and cathodic protection systems. Incorporating corrosion-resistant materials during pipeline construction and ensuring prompt repairs for identified corrosion points can significantly mitigate the risks associated with corroded pipelines. Interventions

should focus on implementing predictive maintenance strategies, incorporating condition monitoring techniques to identify worn-out seals in advance. Regular seal replacements based on predetermined intervals or condition-based assessments are essential [6]. Additionally, installing leak detection systems can promptly identify seal failures, allowing for immediate corrective actions.

## Conclusion

This study highlights the significant safety challenges within Nigeria's oil and gas industry. By employing a semi-quantitative methodology, it successfully identifies key risks and underscores the necessity for specific interventions to bolster safety. The findings reveal critical areas such as infrastructure inadequacies, valve and seal failures, security concerns, and oil spill risks. Addressing these issues is crucial for enhancing the safety performance in the industry, ensuring the wellbeing of workers, and maintaining operational integrity. This research provides a foundational step towards a more secure and sustainable future in the oil and gas sector in Nigeria. Interventions for fire and explosion risks were addressed which included safety training, strict guidelines, predictive maintenance, effective ventilation, and advanced welding technologies. Oil spill risks required regular inspections, leak detection systems, certified welders, rigorous inspections, continuous training, and stress analysis during pipeline design.

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