

factors would be that the questionnaire failed to attract the interest of postgraduate students. Furthermore, a large amount of the respondents are friends and course mates who are willing to spend their time and effort to answer the questionnaire.

4.1.3 Course of study

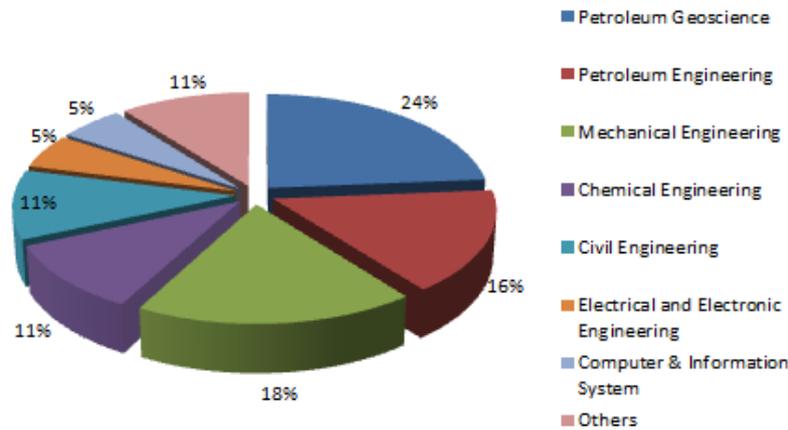


Figure 4.3 Course of study

In the beginning of the research, the team targeted a large group of students from the petroleum based courses as the main study subject as it was proposed that oil spillage is one topic that directly relates to their field of study. The assumption was supported by positive results from the questionnaire. Students that are currently taking petroleum geoscience and petroleum engineering courses contribute 40% of the total respondents. The third largest group of students would be those studying mechanical engineering, 18% of the total respondents, followed by chemical engineering and civil engineering students, representing 11% each. The rest of the study subjects are from electrical & electronic engineering, computer & information system and even some other non-engineering course. The responds proves that students, especially those having connection to the petroleum industry, are aware of oil spillage and the risk it poses to the environment and mankind.

4.3.2 If you live in the affected area, you can avoid oil spillage effects by following the instruction given by the authority

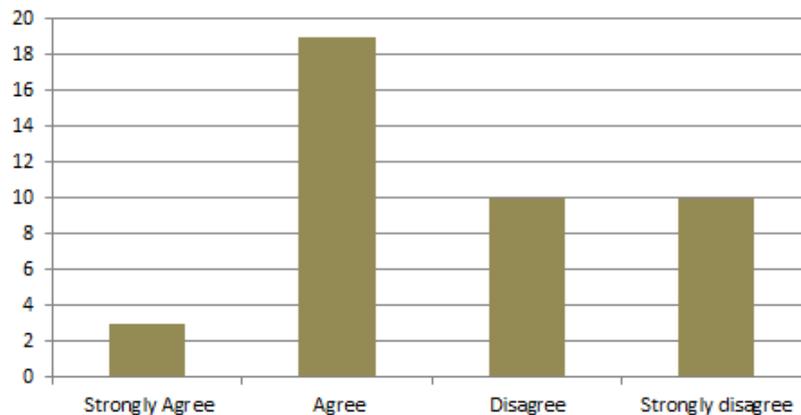


Figure 4.9 Oil spillage effects can be avoided by following instructions given by the authority

52% of respondents do agree that oil spillage effects can be avoid by following the instructions given by the authorities. This result probably does not coincided with the truth of the situation in the affected area. Maybe some of the respondents have never experienced oil spills before. Therefore, they might never be able to even judge whether or not instructions from the local authorities would be able to prevent them from the harm of this catastrophe. Furthermore, it is difficult for the authorities to give instructions due to lack of communication factor, especially in undeveloped areas. Some of the affected areas only use the ocean or rivers to communicate with the main island. Plus, it is too difficult to spread the instructions without using any global communication such as television, radio or internet. But if the government has appointed one or two agencies for each area that oversees the oil exploration process and monitors the hazardous level, it may help local communities to avoid oil spillage effects. These agencies have to be appointed by the Nigerian government to protect marine and coastal environment of the Niger Delta. So, those who are living in the affected area can avoid oil spillage effects by following these agencies instructions. They do not have to wait for the instructions given by authorities from the areas that not affected. A Nigerian government effort by joining with the Disaster Monitoring Constellation through Sat 1 Satellite enables real-time information to be obtain as an early-warning step to warn the locals in an event of oil spill (Nwilo & Badejo, 2005).

should also work closely with government agencies, universities and research centres to prevent the effects of oil spill incidents. Oil companies do have a role to play in the development of a country but it should not be at the expense of contaminating the environment nor endangering the local societies with poor health.

4.4.4 The Nigerian authorities do warn the people about the effects of oil spillage

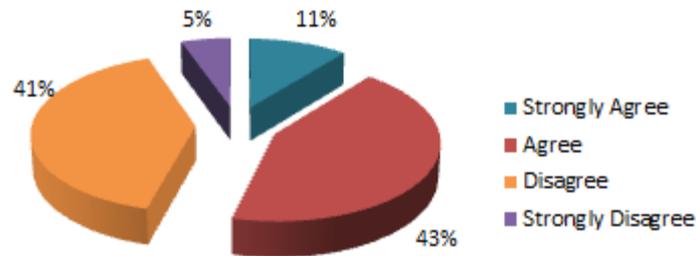


Figure 4.13 The Nigerian authorities do warn the people about the effects of oil spillage

Nigerian authorities should warn the people about the effects of oil spillage. More than half of the respondents agree with the above statement. This is because people living in the Niger Delta are still affected by oil spillage effects. The authorities should have taken an effort to move those people living nearby the affected area to other safer places. This is essential to prevent more people from being affected by the oil spillage. People in the Niger Delta are still affected by oil spillage effects such as dysentery, cholera, typhoid fever, diarrhoea, skin rashes and malaria (Kate, 2011). Therefore, it is crucial to move them out to a safer environment.

4.4.5 Establishment of government agencies to handle pollution can help to control the oil spillage effects

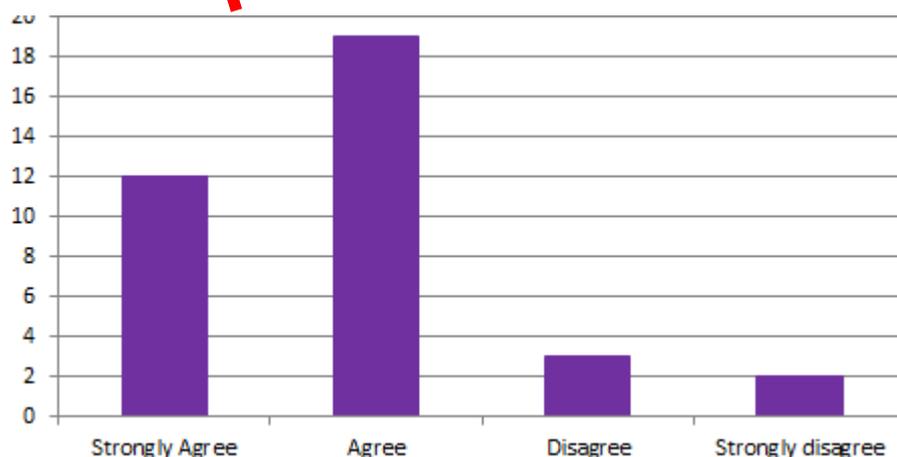


Figure 4.14 Establishment of government agencies to handle pollution can help to control the oil spillage effects

86% of respondents agree that establishment of government agencies to handle pollution can help to control the oil spillage. Niger-Delta Development Commissioner (NDDC) is an agency that has been appointed by the government through an act of the National

- i) Course of Study
 - a) Petroleum Geoscience
 - b) Petroleum Engineering
 - c) Mechanical Engineering
 - d) Chemical Engineering
 - e) Civil Engineering
 - f) Electrical and Electronic Engineering
 - g) Computer & Information System

- ii) Have you ever experienced oil spillage first hand?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No

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