

Plagiarism Declaration I know that plagiarism is wrong.

Plagiarism is to use another's work without attributing it to them, knowingly or unknowingly. I have used the MLA9 convention for citation and referencing.

Each contribution to, and quotation in, this piece from the work(s) of other people has been cited and referenced correctly.

This is my own work, solely designed for this task. Where previous work of mine has been used, I have attributed it accordingly.

I have not allowed, and will not allow, anyone to copy my work with the intention of passing it off as their own work.

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African Studies || Politics of Natural Resources

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Annotated Bibliography

Moti's article investigates the counterintuitive phenomenon whereby Africa's extraordinary natural resource wealth has failed to generate widespread prosperity, instead contributing to economic stagnation and poverty. The author examines how resources including minerals, oil, gas, water, and forestry should theoretically catalyze industrial transformation and economic development but have instead trapped many African nations in dependency on primary commodity exports. Moti attributes this failure to multiple interconnected factors: Dutch Disease effects that undermine manufacturing competitiveness, rent-seeking by political and economic elites who capture resource revenues for private gain, inadequate governance structures, and weak institutional frameworks incapable of managing resource wealth effectively.

Professor Ukertor Gabriel Moti brings substantial credibility to this analysis through his position as Professor of Public Sector Management and Governance at the University of Abuja, Nigeria, indicating specialized expertise in African institutional development, policy implementation, and public administration. His academic positioning suggests deep familiarity with the practical challenges of governance in resource-rich African contexts. The article's publication in *Advances in Social Sciences Research Journal*, a peer-reviewed academic outlet published by the Society for Science and Education, demonstrates that the work has undergone scholarly vetting and meets academic standards for rigor and evidence. The assignment of a DOI further confirms its

legitimacy as a citable scholarly source with permanent digital identification. The 2019 publication date provides relatively recent analysis, though it necessarily predates significant developments including the COVID-19 pandemic's economic disruptions, recent commodity price volatility, and emerging governance reforms across the continent, which may limit its currency on rapidly evolving issues. A passage that reveals Moti's analytical perspective appears in his claim that "historically, those resources have often proved to be a curse than a blessing especially to the majority of the citizens in these African countries." This framing accomplishes several rhetorical moves simultaneously: it adopts the widely recognized "resource curse" terminology, it emphasizes historical patterns rather than inherent determinism, and most significantly, it centers the experiences of ordinary citizens rather than aggregate national statistics. The phrase "especially to the majority of the citizens" signals Moti's normative commitment to distributive justice and inclusive development outcomes, suggesting the author may be predisposed to emphasize governance failures and elite capture rather than technical economic factors. Moti's background as a Nigerian scholar fundamentally shapes this analysis, as Nigeria represents perhaps Africa's most prominent example of the resource curse. This proximity provides intimate contextual knowledge and credibility when discussing institutional failures, though it may also create confirmation bias leading him to generalize Nigeria's particularly severe governance challenges across the diverse African continent. The publication context in a social sciences journal indicates interdisciplinary engagement with political, social, and institutional dimensions beyond purely economic modeling, broadening the analytical frame to include power relations and elite behavior.

This source demonstrates exceptional utility for examining the Paradox of Plenty theory by providing comprehensive theoretical frameworks, concrete African examples, and clear

mechanistic explanations for why resource abundance produces counterintuitive developmental outcomes. Moti directly engages with the paradox's central puzzle, offering detailed analysis of the causal pathways through which natural resource wealth transforms from potential blessing into actual curse. His discussion of Dutch Disease provides crucial economic mechanisms: when natural resource exports generate foreign currency inflows, the resulting currency appreciation makes other exports less competitive internationally, thereby undermining the manufacturing and agricultural sectors that typically provide broad-based employment and economic diversification. Moti's analysis of rent-seeking and elite capture proves particularly valuable for understanding the political economy dimensions of the resource curse, demonstrating how concentrated resource wealth creates opportunities for political elites to extract rents through control of resource revenues rather than investing in productive economic activities. However, Moti's analysis also introduces productive complications to simplistic versions of the resource curse thesis, acknowledging that "with the right approach natural resources can be used to make the transformation from a low-value economy," suggesting that resource wealth's effects are mediated by policy choices and institutional arrangements rather than being predetermined. Engaging with this source has significantly refined my thinking by highlighting the distinction between resource endowment as a structural condition and resource curse as a political-economic outcome. Initially, I conceived of the paradox primarily in economic terms, focusing on price volatility and Dutch Disease. Moti's institutional emphasis has redirected my attention toward governance quality, elite behavior, and policy implementation as the crucial mediating variables that determine whether resources become blessing or curse, transforming my understanding from a puzzle about economics into a question about political economy and institutional development.

Citation:

Moti, Ukertor Gabriel. "Africa's Natural Resource Wealth: A Paradox of Plenty and Poverty."

Advances in Social Sciences Research Journal, vol. 6, no. 7, July 2019, pp. 483-504,

doi:10.14738/assrj.67.6814.

AI Use Documentation:

I utilized Chatgpt to help structure the initial framework. The AI assisted with suggesting more sophisticated academic vocabulary. However, all core arguments, critical analysis of bias, evaluation of source credibility, and reflection on how the source refined my thinking represent my own intellectual engagement with Moti's work.