

**THE ROLES OF SOCIAL GROUPS IN THE
SOCIO-INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT
OF IJEBU NORTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

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CERTIFICATION

I certify that this project was carried out by **Onabowu Maruf Akorede**, with **Matric Number: 17012213008**, of the Department of History, Tai Solarin College of Education, Omu-Ijebu, Ogun State, under my supervision.

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to Almighty God for His grace, mercy and protection over me throughout the period of my study, and to my lovely parents Mr. and Mrs. Onabowu for their support towards the successful completion of my studies.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am greatly indebted to the great God of heaven who is the Almighty, unfailing, ever sufficient, immortal, the creator of the whole universe, who is worthy of my praise for all he has done in my life especially throughout the completion of my course giving me sound health to finish up my project successfully.

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My profound gratitude goes to my darling parents Mr. & Mrs. Onabowu for their spiritual, moral and financial support given me throughout my academic career. God bless them.

Special gratitude goes my mother, my backbone, my supporter, the pillar of my life for her usual support, dedication and prayers over my life. I pray may you wait to eat the fruit of your labour. (Insha Allah).

A special thank goes to my lovely sibling's sister Sekinat, Yusuf, Uthman and Yesiroh for their support and contribution towards my academics and their useful advice.

I am sincerely grateful to my dearest friends Adesanya Susan Adeoye Qudus, Ayomide for their care and understanding and concern throughout our being together. I will continue to remember the impact each one of them has made in my life.

Finally to everyone that has contributed to the success of the project in one way or the other, I say a great thank you. Once again, I glorify the name of Almighty God for He who started a good job in me, will be faithful to complete it.

Thank you God.

Onabowu, M.A

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CHAPTER ONE

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Nigeria operates a three tier system of government which are known as Federal, State and Local Governments. The three tiers of government mentioned above, are put in place in the country for the smooth running of the governmental administration, thereby bringing governance more closer to the people.

Despite the administrative role of government in the society or societies, government is also expected to carry out other social functions, which are inevitable prerequisite towards achieving economic growth and governments' stability. These social functions includes amongst others.

- a. Provision of good and quality education
- b. Provision of good and affordable medical care
- c. Provision of good and motor able roads
- d. Provision of good security network for National and External Progress.

However, it is indisputable that the various governments has not achieved much success in provision of their constitutional roles, for example educational facilities are not much available to the citizens especially in the Ijebu North local government area. There are no access to good water and stable electricity supply amongst other social problems. It should be noted however that the problems of non-effective nature of government functions is not peculiar to Ijebu-North local government area but it is a phenomenon all over local governments and states of Nigeria. Thus the efforts of social groups become inevitable.

Social groups are organization of two or more people in interaction. The social groups are formed for various purpose or purposes. Some of the groups are age grade groups; some are professional, while some are created for security and paramilitary activities. It is Germaine to know that the activities of each of these social groups and their contributions towards the development of the society is determined by the constitution

of its membership or the purpose for which the group is created.

This project work is therefore interested in finding out the roles of social groups in the development of Ijebu North local government.

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Due to the numerous challenges confronting the federal and state governments, including the third tier of government i.e. the local governments. The primarily duty of provision of social infrastructures by government remains a problem. Many towns and environments, especially at the rural areas remain without the availability of basic social infrastructures which could have been provided by government. The social group therefore has hitherto become a source of or alternative provider of social infrastructures. This project shall examine the contributions of the social groups in Ijebu North local government of Ogun State.

1.3 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The scope of the study shall be Ijebu North local government area of Ogun State. The study would specifically examine how the social groups have contributed towards provision of social amenities for the local government.

1.4 LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

This study is limited in scope by time and finance. It is limited in scope because it addresses only the relationship between social groups and the local government of Ijebu North of Ogun State in efforts towards the development of the local government area.

CHAPTER TWO
EMERGENCE OF SOCIAL ORGANIZATION IN IJEBU
NORTH GOVERNMENT OF OGUN STATE

MEANING OF SOCIAL ORGANIZATION

Social organization is a topic in social studies as a course. On its own parts, social studies have just (recently) gained full recognition and prominence as an independent course in the curriculum of studies in the Nigerian Schools. This assertion is indisputability buttressed by the fact that teaching of the course is up till now still limited mostly to the junior secondary schools pupils apart from some colleges of education which offer it to train the would be teachers of the course. With the relatively young age of social studies in the curriculum of studies in the Nigerian Schools, there is still dearth of text books and periodicals from which a detailed study of social organizations as a topic in the course could be conducted. The problem becomes even more complicated when it is realized that due to the level of socio-economic and political levels of

Ijebu North Government Area, there are still very few virile social organizations in the area when compared to those in Ijebu-Ode Local Government, Abeokuta South Local Government and Abeokuta North Local Government in the same State.

However, the problems identified above do not leave social organization as a topic of this research work totally indefinable. Hence, social organization has been defined by Paul B. Horton and Chester L. Hunt in their work *Sociology* (Sixth Edition) at page 183 thus: “Social organization is the way the members of a society are divided into groups and the enduring arrangement they develop”. The learned authors also go further on the same page of the book and said: “Social organization is the process of forming groups and developing those enduring patterns of association and behaviour which we call social organization”.

Social organizations have been described by sociologist as a large group of individual oriented to common goal. It is collectively of units that are functionally differentiated and engaged in joint problem solving with respect to a common

goal. Social organizations have also been described as everything from a small family to an entire society. However, social organization differs from a group because it does not include much wider range of collectives, and often refer to a larger unit (Evertt, M. Rogers & Rabel, J. Burdge: Social Change in Rural Societies – 2nd Edition Page 96).

From the analysis of the definitions of social organizations given below, social organization can therefore be described as including family units, organizations such as Red Cross society, boys brigade, Boys Scout, rotary club, lion club, pressure groups such as national union of teachers, national association of nurses, civil liberation organization, the native social clubs and the modern social clubs in Ijebu North Government Area of Ogun State whose collective aims and objectives are to improve the social well-being of the people of, and in the are.

EMERGENCE OF SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS IN IJEBU NORTH GOVERNMENT

Many social organizations have emerged in Ijebu North Government Area of Ogun State and they include the family as social organization, native social organizations, international social organizations, the local social organizations, trade unions, pressure groups, religious organizations and educational organizations.

THE FAMILY AS A SOCIAL ORGANIZATION

The family could be defined as a kinship grouping which provides for the rearing of children and for certain human needs. If a society is to survive, people must find some workable and dependable ways of pairing off, conceiving and raising children, meeting economic needs, caring for the ill and aged, and carrying out certain other functions (Paul B. Horton & Chester, L. Hunt – Sociology, 6th Ed. P. 233). All societies need to provide for rearing children. The institution responsible for child rearing is the family. The family therefore is the basic social institution from which other institutions have grown as increasing cultural complexity made them necessary.

In Ijebu North Government Area, two types of family are recognized. They are nuclear family and extended family. The two types of family are interwoven and therefore cannot be divorced from each other. Nuclear family consists of the husband, wife and children. It is also known as conjugal family. In Ijebu North Government Area, this type of family based on nuclear or conjugal family itself and upon the blood relationship of a number of kinsperson.

The term extended family is often used to refer to the nuclear family plus any other kin with whom important relationships in most cases are very remote. The extended family in Ijebu North Government Area is therefore a chain of blood relatives together with their children. It is a conglomerate of the patrinal and matrilineal relations of the newly wedded husband and wife. It includes indisputably, the in-laws and cousins of the two parties, that is husband and wife with their children.

In Ijebu North Government Area as in other parts of the world, marriage is the basis of the family as a social

organization. Marriage is the approved social pattern whereby two or more persons establish a family. It involves not only the right to conceive and rear children but also a host of other obligations and privileges affecting a good happy people (Paul B. Horton & Chester L. Hunt: Sociology – 6th Ed. 234).

The learned authors have gone further to give the real meaning of a marriage as “the acceptance of a new status, with a new act of privileges and obligations, and the recognition of this new status by others. Wedding ceremonies are rituals and merely ways of publicizing and dramatizing this change of status”.

Marriage can also be defined as a social contract between a male persons and a female person with the common social views of rearing children. In Ijebu North Government Area, two types of marriage are contracted namely marriage under the statute (Church Marriage) and traditional marriage.

Marriage under statute otherwise known as Church Marriage is a union for life between a male person and a female person and to the exclusion of any other person. By this form of

marriage the man (husband) is forbidden by law not only from marrying any other woman (Wife), he cannot have any amorous affair with any other woman. A breach of this element of the marriage is punishable by law. By necessary implications, this form of marriage disallows a man from having a child by another woman, where his marriage to his wife had failed to produce any child.

This form of marriage is now gaining ground among the literate class. This study has, however, discovered that the family emanating from this form of marriage is easily maintainable judging by the social and economic conditions now prevailing in Ijebu North Government Area. It should be pointed out that this form of marriage is often frowned against by the elderly people of Ijebu North Government Area because they believe the status of a family is more enhanced by the number of wives and children in the family.

On the other hand, the people of Ijebu North Government Area of Ogun State cherish more the traditional marriage which allows a man to have as many wives as possible. Traditionally

marriage includes marriage under the Moslem law because it (Moslem Law) allows a man to have four wives.

NATIVE SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS

In Ijebu North Government Area of Ogun State there exists native social organizations whose collective primary aims and objectives are the provision of social amenities for the welfare of the society. The earliest of these native social organizations are the age group clubs some of which are Obangbade, Obabosipo, Bobagunwa, Obaneye, Boba Segun, Mafowoku, to mention just a few. These associations apart from assisting their members have also contributed immensely to the social, economic and political development of the towns in Ijebu North Government Area. One of their basic features is that their members are mostly illiterates.

MODERN SOCIAL CLUBS

Co-existing with the aforementioned native social clubs in Ijebu North Government Area are modern social clubs. In contrast with the traditional age group clubs, the modern social clubs are membered by educated persons. Some of these modern social clubs are Ijebu Igbo Club, Awa Social Club, Oru Progressive Club, Ago Iwoye Central Development Council, Elite Club of Ago Iwoye, Iwoye Club '77, and host of others.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS

Another set of social organizations that had emerged in Ijebu North Government Area of Ogun State are Rotary Club, Inner Wheel, Lions Club, Red Cross, Boys Brigade and Boys Scout just to mention a few.

Rotary Club:

The emergence of Rotary Clubs of Ijebu Igbo and Ago Iwoye was just of recent. The club is still relatively young in the towns. Its membership is open to adult males. However, its

junior club is known as the Rotary Club and this exists both in Ijebu Igbo and Ago Iwoye. The Club also has an adult female wing known as the Inner Wheel Club of Ijebu Igbo and Inner Wheel Club of Ago Iwoye. An important feature of the club is that it is membered mostly by educated class.

Lions Club:

In Ijebu North Government Area of Ogun State there are Lions Club. The clubs exist both in Ijebu Igbo and Ago Iwoye. Like its counterpart the Rotary Clubs of Ago Iwoye and Ijebu Igbo the Lions Club of both Ijebu Igbo and Ago Iwoye also have junior wings called Leo Clubs of Ijebu Igbo and Ago Iwoye.

The Lions Clubs of Ijebu Igbo and Ago Iwoye also have their female wing known as the Lioness Club. Their members are enlightened members of the social Lions Clubs of Ago Iwoye and Ijebu Igbo are also still relatively young compared with the native social organizations.

The Red Cross Organization:

The Red Cross Organization exists in all the towns that make up Ijebu North Government Area of Ogun State. Its emergence in the area could be dated back to the time of the introduction of formal education to the towns now in Ijebu North Government Area. Its prominent features is that their members apart from being literates are normally clad in neat white uniforms.

The Boys Scout Organization:

The Boys Scout Organization is another social organization in Ijebu Igbo and Ago Iwoye in the Ijebu North Government Area of Ogun State. Its emergence on the soil of the local government could be dated back to few decades ago. The organization has a female wing known as Girls Guild, The organization is a para-military organization hence its members are uniformed.

The Boys Brigade:

The Boys Brigade is one of the social organizations in Ijebu North Government Area of Ogun State. The organization exists in Ijebu Igbo, Ago Iwoye. Its female wing is known as the Girls Guild, like the Boys Scout Organization, the Boys Brigade is also a para-military social organization and it is being sponsored by the Christian religious organizations such as the Anglican Church of Ijebu Igbo and the Methodist Church of Ago Iwoye.

RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION

In Ijebu Igbo, Ago Iwoye, Ilaporu in Ijebu North Government Area of Ogun State there are many religious organizations which have contributed very immensely to the social advancement of the towns. Some of the religious organizations are the Methodist Church, Ago Iwoye, St. Matthew's Anglican Church, Ijebu Igbo. The Jehovah Witness Assemblies both in Ijebu Igbo and Ago Iwoye, and of course the various mosques in the towns. Also existing in the towns are

the various traditional religious such as the Osugbo and the Reformed Ogboni Fraternity which also have their own temples of worship.

The emergence of the Christian religions and Islamic religious organizations in the town under study is well over a century. However, the traditional religion like the Osugbo on its own part is as old as the towns themselves, since they had been in existence before the advent of the Christianity and Islam.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION

In Ijebu North Local Government Area of Ogun State there are educational organizations that have contributed to the social development of the towns in the local government. Many of these educational institutions are well over hundred years, while majority of the institutions were initially established and financed by the religious organizations, some were established and financed by the local government, state government and

the communities while one was established by an individual philanthropist in the person of Chief Abusi Edumare of Ijebu-Igbo. It is interesting to note however, that the government had virtually taken over all the schools in the local government area except the newly emerging nursery/primary schools. Examples of the educational organizations are Molusi College, Girls Secondary School, Abusi Edumare Academy Moslem Primary School, Government Technical College, in Ijebu-Igbo.

In Ago-Iwoye, there are Ago-Iwoye Secondary School, Muslim High School, Abobi Comprehensive High School, Igan Wesley Primary School, Omo-Edumare Primary School to mention just a few. The Schools in Oru, Awa and Ilaporu include Obanta Comprehensive High School, Awa, Segun United Primary School, Oru. The local government is also blessed with a university (Ogun State University), which has its main campus located in Ago-Iwoye.

THE LEPROSY CENTRE

In Ijebu North Local Government Area, there is a social organization known as Leprosy centre located in Ijebu Igbo for the rehabilitation of the lepers.

THE CENTRE FOR THE BLIND

The Centre for the blinds located in Ijebu-Igbo for the training of the blinds is one of the social organizations established in Ijebu North Local Government Area of Ogun State.

CHAPTER THREE

THE EXPANSION AND GROWTH OF SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS IN IJEBU NORTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Most of the social organizations referred to in the preceding chapter particularly the educational organization were created by the old western regional government. They devolved on the western state sequel to the creation of that in 1966. In 1976 when Ogun State was created and carved out of the former western state, the institutions were inherited by Ogun State Government.

Education as a social organization witnessed some expansion and growth in 1979 to 1983 during the second republic when many new primary schools and secondary schools, a technical college and a university were established in Ijebu North Local Government Area. School, Government Technical College, all in Ijebu Igbo. In Ago Iwoye such newly established schools include Abodi Comprehensive High School. Fowoseje High School and Ogun State University. Also then

existing privately owned and sponsored schools were taken over the government.

The basic aim of the then government controlled by the Unity Party of Nigeria was to bring education nearer to the people and it was free of any fees at all levels. By this good gestures of the government the over congestion of the then existing schools was abolished while opportunity was created for those financially less privileged to have access to education.

However, it should pointed out that even though the then administration might have the laudable intention of socializing the people of the local government, its positive growth could be in doubt as the schools were not provided with qualified teachers. It was then a common thing drafting primary school teachers to secondary schools to teach specialized subjects like: English Language, Mathematics, Biology, Physics, and Chemistry for which they were not particularly trained. In comparison, it is not a gain-saying that the educational institutions witnessed positive growth and expansion when they were under the control and management of the private bodies

like the Anglican Church, the Methodist Church and the Islamic Organizations. These bodies endeavoured to engage the services of competent hands in the administration and promotion of their educational institution with the resultant competition among the schools.

Another area of social organizations which has witnessed a tremendous growth and expansion in Ijebu North Local Government Area is the religious organization. Both the Christian and Islamic bodies had in the past few years established new churches and mosque both in the urban centres and also in the rural areas. Prominent among these religious bodies are the Ahmadiya, the Celestial Church and the Gospel Churches. They have also succeeded in converting many people into their sects.

The modern social clubs have also witnessed progressive growth and expansion. Many social clubs are being created regularly in all the towns that make up the Ijebu North Local Government Area. In the case of the specialized nature of the Rotary Club, Inner Wheel Club, Lion Club, Lioness Club, Boys

Brigade, Boys Scout and the Girls' Guilds. Their growth and expansion could only be felt and measured in the increase in membership of the organizations without necessarily creating new ones.

CHAPTER FOUR
SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS AND SOCIETAL
DEVELOPMENT IN IJEBU-NORTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The social organizations earlier referred to in this study have either collectively in some cases or individually contributed very immensely to the development of the people of Ijebu North Government Area.

In the area of education, the religious institutions have played a prominent role before the government took over the control of their schools. Apart from the establishment of schools, they also granted scholarship to those who were in need of it. The religious organizations in the local government have also contributed to the provision of medical health delivery in the area. The Catholics have established a standard hospital in Ijebu Igbo and a specialist eye hospital in Ago Iwoye.

The religious organizations in Ijebu North Government Area have also championed the crusade against the societal ills such as armed robber, drug abuse, child abuse, abortion,

adultery and stealing to mention just a few by campaigning and preaching very vigorously and vehemently against them.

Another effect of social organizations in Ijebu North Government Area is that they enable the people of the area to be more aware of their rights-social, economic and political rights-hence the prevalence of surgery has drastically reduced and slavery in its glorified name of house maid has banished.

The social organizations in the area have brought life and hope to certain sections of the people of the area. But for the establishment and maintenance of the Blind Centre in Ijebu Igbo many a blind persons would not have had access to formal education while the absence of the leprosy centre in the same town would have made live very miserable and unbearable for the inmates.

The existence of the institutions like the Government Technical College, Ijebu-Igbo and the Ogun State University, Ago Iwoye have no doubt tremendously transformed the economic, social and political life of the local government area. The institutions have trained many students who are now

gainfully employed. The institutions have also brought about increase in the economics activities of the local government area. There now exist in the local government many commercial activities which cater for the need of the students and thereby improving the economic and social status of the traders in the area.

The social organizations in the area have created employment opportunities for the indigenes in the area. Many people are in the employment of the educational institutions, the religious institutions and the hospital created by them. Some of the social clubs referred to earlier have secretariat for which some hands are employed.

The organizations like the Rotary Club, Inner Wheel, Lions Clubs and the Lioness Clubs of both Ijebu Igbo and Ago Iwoye have also contributed to the societal development of Ijebu North Government Area. They have always paid visits to such places like the Leprosy Centre, the Refugee Camp and the school for the Blinds and presenting them with gifts such as clothes medicine, food and books. Apart from the gifts they give them,

they have also been fraternizing with them and thus give them some lease of hope in life.

The efforts of the social organization in Ijebu North Government in societal development could also be seen in their tireless efforts at providing road signs to the traffic where necessary, to minimize motor accidents and thus saving the lives of the travellers.

It is worthy of note to mention in particular the singular contribution of the MAMSE in Ijebu North Government Area to the social and political awareness of the people of the area through its organized seminars and workshops.

In Ijebu North Government Area, the Red Cross Society has always been useful in providing first aid and mediation particularly at sports festivals. So also is the invaluable contribution of the Boys Scout and Girls Guild in maintaining peace and order in the society when occasion demands for it. For the area, the family rears children and thus make for the continuity in the life of the local government area. The family as a social organization maintains and trains children. The family

through its agent – Parents / Teachers Association in various institutions of learning in the local government have rendered invaluable assistance to the schools in achieving their aims of training the pupils. Thus the family has always donated generously to the provision of necessary amenities in schools. Such amenities include the recruitment of teachers, equipment of the library and the science laboratories provision of sports equipment and school vans.

The existence of healthy competition among families in Ijebu North Government Area has also contributed to the development of the society. Each family endeavours to have as many graduates and professionals and this has resulted in reduction of literates in the society.

The family in Ijebu North Government Area provides the necessary labour force which serves other various organizations. For example the family provides the workers in the local government council, the teachers, the policy and the farmers. Instance, the services of the Boys Scout to maintain peace and order are readily available at communal carnival like

Ago Iwoye Day Celebration, Oru Peoples Day Celebration, Awa, Day Celebration and Sports Centre.

The joint efforts of all the organization in the societal development could also be seen in the area of organizing communal carnivals such as Ago Iwoye day celebration, Oru Peoples day celebration and Awa Day celebration. Such carnivals have always afforded the social organizations the opportunity to appraise their past developments and embark on new developmental projects. In Ago Iwoye for instance, the Ago Iwoye Central Development Council an effort to reduce the plight of the people in getting drinkable water had succeeded in sinking a bore hole in each of the seven quarters that make up the town. The council had also provided street lights in the town.

The family as a social organization in Ijebu North Government Area had indisputably been playing unique roles in the societal development of.

CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It has been discovered in this study that social organizations in Ijebu North Local Government Area of Ogun State have not been found waiting in their contributions to the societal development of the area. It is however, strongly believed by this writer that the organizations had not reached the apex in their efforts to improve the lots of the society.

In the area of education, the inability of the government to provide adequate materials needed in schools in the area beyond dispute. The schools are short of teachers and other materials necessary for effective teaching. Some of the schools are operating under dilapidated buildings. Some secondary schools do not have library and science laboratories. In many of the schools there is no drinkable water. It is therefore suggested that all these inadequacies should be addressed by the various social organizations. Some of the money they expend on social parties if used to provide some of the aforementioned needs will be more valuable.

Agriculture is an important segment of the economy which begs for worthy assistance. In Ijebu North Local Government Area of Ogun State, the social organizations have not meaningfully contributed to the promotion and improvement of the agriculture sector. This they could do by organizing seminars and workshops for the farmers, assisting them in the procurement of necessary inputs such as fertilizers, cutlasses and tractors for them to plough their farms so that the production of the farms could be improved and thereby improving the status of the farmers.

The existence of the social organizations is more felt in the town to the neglect of the rural areas, that is, the villages which form the core of the local government area. Apart from do not have good motorable road they also lack good drinkable water hence they are subjected to various air borne diseases. The social organizations in the local government could do a lot in opening up, or rehabilitating the existing roads to enable the farmers transport their products to town without much problem.

To solve the problem of shortage of drinkable water in the villages the social organizations should extend their good gestures of sinking bore holes to the villages.

The rural areas of the local government also need medical which is not available now. It is suggested that the social organizations should endeavor to establish health centres in the villages to cater for the need of the villagers. Even in the township, the existing health centres lack the necessary facilities. It is an eye score to discover that a maternity centre does not have bed sheets. The social organizations should set up a monitoring committee with a view to solving this type of problem.

Due to the poor economic conditions now prevailing in the country in general and Ijebu North Local Government Area of Ogun State in particular, many a brilliant and willing children of the local government are now unable to further education. This is an all-important area the social organizations should assist by granting scholarships to such children.

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