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Assessment of socio economic activities of Elegbeka community in OSE local government area Ondo state South West, Nigeria

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Abstract

This study contributes to existing literature by using an integrated model that cover essential dimension of socio economic indices. Investigating socio-economic facilities that has a remarkable impact on the pattern of socio-economic life and development in rural area and also carefully filling the gap in body of knowledge, and providing guidance to policymakers and rural resources planner. The study involve evaluating the socio economic activities of Elegbeka community by exploring there resources, human and natural, tradition and administrative structure, ethnic composition. The social baseline involved both primary and secondary sources of data.it utilized the descriptive statistic to analyze the questionnaires distributed to respondent within the community. Result of analysis revealed that Agriculture is the dominant occupation of the people providing income and employment opportunities for over 70% of the population with women and children playing the predominant role in farming activities, The income range of the respondents in the communities shows that N100,000 – N199,000 per annum recorded the highest percentage (63%), this was largely due to the fact that the kind of farm practice in these communities are subsistence farming with very few of the farmers engaging in the cultivation of cash crops. The result of the analysis of the administered questionnaire revealed that greater percentage of the inhabitants were literate (64%) and 36% were illiterate. Those considered literate are the respondents with minimum qualification of secondary school leaving certificate and above. Due to the polygamous nature of the community greater percentage (42%) of the inhabitants maintain a polygamous setting. Based on the findings of the study the conclusions can be made. The social economic activities do not pose any major threat to human lives in the community, it make the community member life very active in all area, Recommendations, the study should be incorporated to form the basic guideline for developmental initiative in the community and should be used in checking any adverse effect that any other activity may have on various environmental components.

Keywords: Socio economic, income, Oba, Elegbeka, Ondo

Introduction

In many countries of the world, especially the Third World Countries like Nigeria, socio-economic facilities have a remarkable impact on the pattern of socio-economic life and development in rural area (Okafor & Onokerorhay, 1994) like Elegbeka rural community. Elegbeka is a community in Ifon town, Ondo State, Nigeria.

Ondo state, with an appellation of the sunshine state was created in February 3rd, 1976 as one of the 36 states of the federation of Nigeria. It was carved out of the former Western State of Nigeria. The state covered the total area of the former Ondo Province, created in 1915 with Akure as the provincial headquarters. Ondo state took off formerly on 1st April, 1976, consisting of the nine (9) Administrative division of the former Western State. These nine (9) divisions then were Akoko, Akure, Ekiti Central, Ekiti North and Ekiti West Divisions was carved out of Ondo State. Hence, the present Ondo state is made up of Akoko, Akure, Okitipupa, Ondo and Owo Divisions. Akure remains the state capital.

a. Traditional and administrative structure of Ondo State

The various cities, towns, villages and communities in the Ondo state are under kingdoms or chiefdoms and are well structured in their social organization with each being headed by Kabiyesi/Obas. The Baales/Olus oversee the daily affairs of the community on behalf of the Obas. The traditional administrative structure deals more on issues relating to the peoples culture and value. They are therefore the custodians of the culture and values and are important and revered institutions in the settlement of land dispute, inter and intra

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community disagreements. The traditional authority is supported by the various Community Development Associations, which have officers such as Chairmen, Secretaries as well as treasurers. The organization receives approval and blessing from the traditional council before undertaking major projects and the youths constitute majority of the members. Women do not exert more political power but they play important role in ceremonies. Co-operative and socio-cultural organization provides financial assistance to the members. Alongside the age long traditional government is the representative of the federal and state governments, in form of local governments.

An Oba or King heads the traditional institution. By custom, Obas are not only heads of their towns and kingdoms, but personify deities and represent ancestral authorities. They are also the titular heads of all the religious sects in their kingdoms. Their appointments are partly by divination, made by the king makers who are invariably the High Chiefs. They are appointed from among the children of past rulers. The sacredness of their offices is neither empty nor normal for their people regard them as deities. Courts were maintained by the traditional rulers and were assisted in this function by their chiefs. In Akure, the Deji maintained a local court at *erekesan*. The Palace still adjudicates in varieties of matters even till date despite the fact that the power of an Oba to dispense justice and his influences are gradually waning.

b. Administrative structure of Ondo State

Like other states of the federation, Ondo state is now govern by a democratically elected administration as from 29th May, 1999. At the apex of the state administration is the Executive Civilian Governor and members of his executive council, comprising of the Deputy Governor, the Secretary to the Government, and the Head of Service, the State Commissioners and Special advisers to the Governor. The two other arms of Government that complement the Executive Arm are the Legislative Arm - State House of Assembly, headed by the Speaker and the Judicial Arm headed by the State Chief Judge. At the local government level, for each of the seventeen local government areas in Ondo State, there is an Executive Chairman who is the head of the LGA's Executive Council. Others include the Vice Chairman, Supervisory Councilors and Secretary to the local government.

c. Ethnic composition and language in Ondo State

The ethnic composition of Ondo State is largely from the Yoruba subgroups of the Akoko, Akure, Ikare, Ilaje, Ondo, Owo, Arogbos, Ikale, and Akpois who are Ijaw of extraction and are mostly located in the riverine areas of state. Although other Nigerians and foreign nationals co-exist peacefully in the state.

Study area

Ondo state covers an area of 14, 788.723 square kilometers (km²). The state lies entirely in the tropics between latitudes 4° 30' and 6° East of the Greenwich Meridian, 5° 45' and 8° 15' North of the Equator. Ondo state is bounded in the North by Ekiti/Kogi States, East by Edo State, West by Oyo and Ogun States and in the south by the Atlantic Ocean. Jeje, (1983) [4]. There are two land formation sedimentary rock and Precambrian basement complex rock which can be

found in the northern and southern part respectively. Jeje, (1983) [4]. The population of Ondo state as at 2006 stood at 3,441,024 persons made up of 51.18% (1,761,263) males and 48.82% (1,679,761) females with an annual growth rate of 2.87%. The spatial distribution of the population by the local government area reveals that the five local government areas of: Akoko South, Akure, Ilaje, Okitipupa and Owo had the highest proportions of the populations in 2006. The ethnic composition of Ondo State is largely from the Yoruba subgroups of the Akoko, Akure, Ikare, Ilaje, Ondo, Owo, Arogbos, Ikale, and Akpois who are Ijaw of extraction and are mostly located in the riverine areas of state. Although other Nigerians and foreign nationals co-exist peacefully in the state.

The Yorubas constitute greater percentage of the inhabitants in Elegbeka with population of the about 50%, followed by the Ebiras which are 40% and the minority make up the remaining percentage of about 10. There is a clear boundary between Ebira settlement and Yoruba settlement in Elegbeka; Ebiras occupied the southern part of the town while the Yorubas reside at the extreme northern part of the town, the minority is found scattered within the extremes. Ifon is equally a multi-ethnic town sharing boundary with Edo State. However, Yoruba speaking with Ifon dialect constitutes the greatest percentage.

Elegbeka is considered as one of the settlement under Ifon. The head of Elegbeka is a Baale under the king of Ifon. Baale of Elegbeka is expected to pay homage and royalty to Olufon as assign of respect to the King. The two communities share the same culture and tradition which is considered a binding force. According to Olufon, each of the settlements is permitted to settle dispute in their communities. The result of the interview conducted with the King also revealed that religious organizations, social groups, traditional chiefs and head of each quarters or streets are equally permitted to settle dispute that may arise in their domain. Although, there is room for the Palace to also intervene if the dispute cannot be resolved at any of these levels. Aggrieved individuals are equally permitted to seek redress in the court of law.

Table 1: Ondo State 1991 population distribution by local government area & land area

S/N	Name of LGA	Area (sq. km.)	Figures
1	Akoko North East	378.17	
2	Akoko North West	520.75	119,278
3	Akoko South East	229.04	
4	Akoko South West	537.90	
5	Akure North	669.05	
6	Akure South	335.81	
7	Ese-Odo	768.53	
8	Idanre	1,936.78	85,776
9	Ifedore	229.28	102,617
10	Ilaje	1,328.85	
11	Ile-Oluji-Okeigbo	706.48	116,094
12	Irele	972.05	100,127
13	Odigbo	1,836.88	154,320
14	Okitipupa	810.72	176,615
15	Ondo East	358.18	
16	Ondo West	981.39	
17	Ose	1,484.56	93,033
18	Owo	1,040.77	157,191

Source: National population commission of Nigeria 1991 (Web)



Source: Google.com (2014)

Fig 1: Map of Nigeria with 36 states and FCT highlighting Ondo State

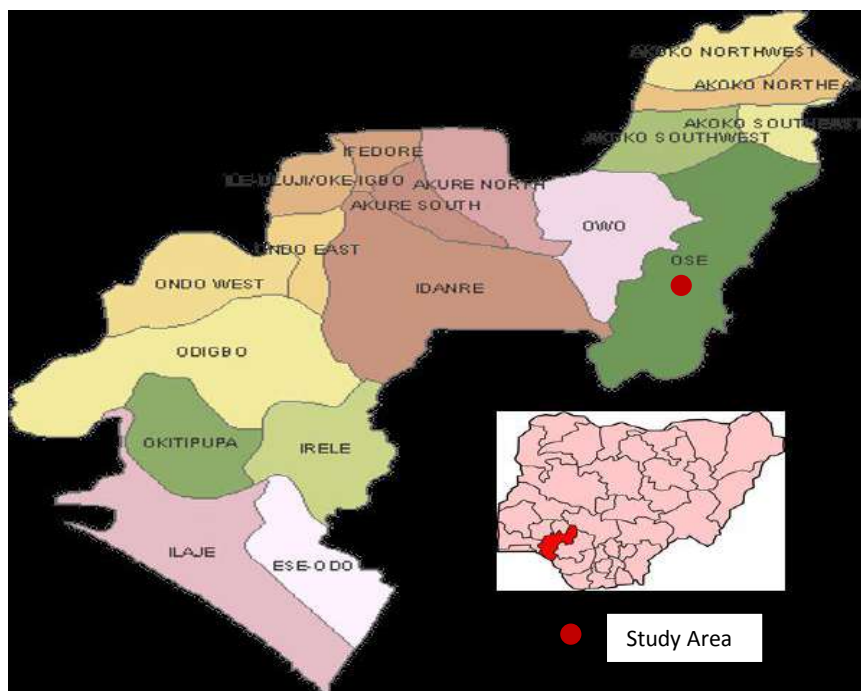


Fig 2: Map of Ondo State showing OSE local government area (LGA). Insert – Map of Nigeria showing Ondo State.

Materials and Methods

The method and materials used included direct observation, public meetings and key informants (Traditional rulers, and local Authorities) were interviewed. The methodology used is described below: Consultation with Olufon of Ifon, community youths, women and Elegbeka people. Socio-economic surveys of the host communities. A comprehensive questionnaire for data collection was developed, whereby certain information was requested such as: household bio-data, livelihoods, infrastructure inventories including land, common properties, houses, commercial properties and social services infrastructure.

Jeje, (1983) [4].

The social baseline is based on both primary and secondary data. Primary data were obtained from the combined use of questionnaires, field visits during the baseline surveys, interactive sessions and interviews at the various community levels, district administrative personnel, traditional authorities, civic leaders and directly from community members. Secondary data were accessed through internet searches, available reports and articles.

A three-stage procedure was used for information sourcing and documentation, this involved:

- Identification of communities/locations within the

proposed project area.

- Establishment of contacts with the community heads followed by briefs to them on the purpose of the project.
- Holding of interactive sessions and interviews with the community members using the Rapid Rural Appraisal (RRA) method for information sourcing, documentation and verification.

Primary data collection

Primary data were collected using the following data collection tools described below:

a) Questionnaires

A detailed and structured questionnaire was used alongside other methods to acquire relevant information. Questionnaires had questions on basic demography, livelihood of inhabitants, availability of social infrastructure etc. This was distributed and completed for the project area. A total of 200 questionnaires were administered at Elegbeka and all the adjoining villages that the activities of the project shall impact, and the same number of copies was retrieved for analysis of the socio economic baseline for the project area. (See attached questionnaire in appendix).

b) The stakeholder engagement process (SEP)

Stakeholder engagement is an all-inclusive, interactive, systematic and continuous process, spanning the entire life cycle of a project, in which stakeholders are engaged as active partners in establishing the priorities and focus of a project or programme, and not treated merely as the passive recipients of the project when completed. The data was

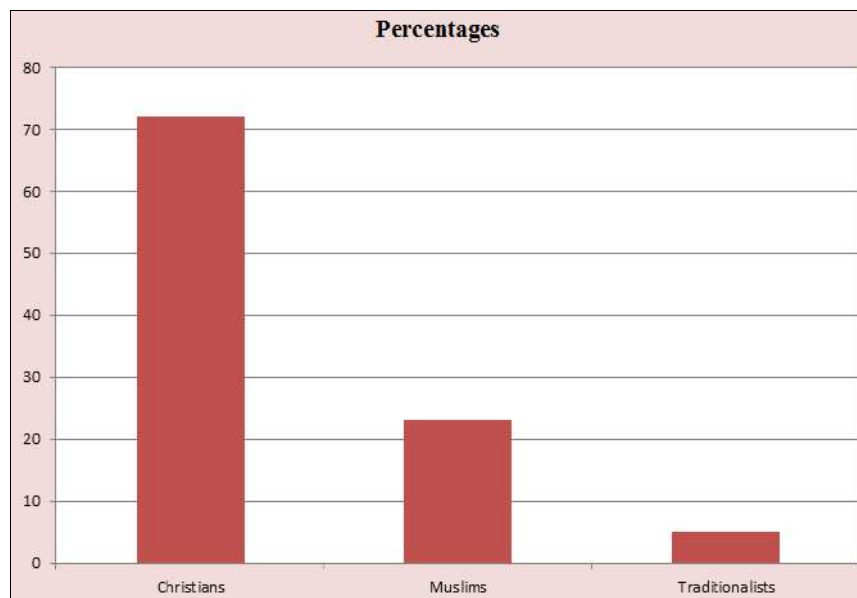
analyzed using simple descriptive statistic alongside table, chart and figures.

Result presentation

Religion

By religion, Ondo State People are mostly Christians while a sizeable number of Muslims can be found in Ikare and other parts of the state. There are also traditional worshippers who are the custodians and devotees of the various deities of the Yoruba religion, chief of which are Ogun (god of iron), Ifa Oracle, Sango (the god of thunder), Esu (Devil), Osanyin, Olofin, Egungun (like Onibobo – egungun are believed to be the spirit of dead parents especially males) and Orisa-nla (the supreme god). The Yorubas of Ondo state has strong belief in the supreme god, which they call “OLODUMARE”. They believe Olodumare is superior to other deities and cannot be worshiped directly. Hence, the Yorubas of Ondo State worship Olodumare through other lesser gods. These has gradually given way to Christianity and people today believe that the Supreme Being (God), also called Jehovah or El Shadai, the God of Christians is the same as the Olodumare. The Yoruba religion is tied to major festivals being related to agricultural productivity and the mortification wrought in the environment through religion.

Christians constitutes the highest percentage of the respondents (72%), followed by the Muslim (23%) and the traditionalists were the list (5%). It was observed that some Christians and Muslims practice traditional religion.



Source: Field work 2017

Fig 3: Chart representing religion in the community

Occupation

Agriculture is the dominant occupation of the people of Ondo state providing income and employment opportunities for over 70% of the population with women and children playing the predominant role in farming activities. Some of their crops are cocoa, maize, cocoyam, plantain, kola nut, coconut, vegetables, yam, banana, rice, cassava, oil palm, rubber etc. In fact, Ondo State is known to be the core of Nigerian cocoa belt accounting for over 60% of Nigeria's

annual output. It also contributes well over 75% to the State's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Next to cocoa are kola nut, rubber, coffee and oil palm produce. The government has been involved in the establishment of extensive plantations in respect of oil palm, rubber and exotics especially *Tectona grandis* and *Gmelina arborea*. The state has a very large oil palm at Okitipupa, ode-Irele and Araromi-Obu.

Table 2: Primary occupation in the community

S/N	Primary occupation	Frequency	Percentage
1	Farming	130	65
2	Business (Trading in cash crops and agricultural produce)	24	12
3	Artisan	15	7.5
4	Business (Sales of non-agricultural produce)	20	10
5	Civil servant	11	5.5
	Total	200	100

Source: Field work 2017

The proposed site is in an agrarian community. Farming represents the greatest percentage of the primary occupation of the respondents (65%). This is practiced at subsistence level. Both food and cash crops are being cultivated. Types of food crops grown in the community include yam, cassava, banana, plantain and maize. The cash crops include cashew and cocoa. The Ebira among the community are noted as farmers. Two forms of business are identified in the community, this include those engaging in sales of agricultural produce such as timber and non-timber produce, cash crops e.g. Cocoa and cashew, and sales of food crops such as yam, cassava and plantain (12%). The other form of business is sales of non-agricultural produce (10%) such as beverages, household items, sales of petroleum products, wears, local restaurant operators, etc. Artisans constitutes 7.5%, this include people engaging in bricklaying, carpentry, vulcanizing, fashion designing or tailoring, painting etc. Civil servant represents (5.5%) including staff at the local government secretariat, school teachers, health workers etc.

Table 3: Secondary occupation in the community

S/N	Secondary occupation	Frequency	Percentage
1	Farming/hunting	22	11
2	Business (Trading in sales of non-agricultural produce)	62	31
3	Artisan	71	36
4	Business (Agricultural produce)	31	16
5	None	14	7
	Total	200	100

Source: Field work 2017

Greater percentages of the respondents are artisans that have chosen bricklaying, carpentry, painting, fashion designing as their secondary occupation (36%). This is followed by business men and women engaging in the sales of non-agricultural produce (31%) and agricultural produce (16%). Farming/hunting was indicated as secondary occupation by 11% of the respondents while 7% of the respondents have no other occupation apart from being a civil servant or otherwise.

Income distribution

The main revenue-yielding crops are cocoa, palm produce and timber. Before the oil boom, Ondo region used the core of the Nigerian cocoa belt accounting for over 60% of Nigeria's annual output. Timber processing is another source of income in the state. Some of the hardwood species are Iroko, Mahogany, Obeche, Omo, Afara, and Tick. Timber has encouraged the establishment of saw-milling industries, which litter every nook and corner of the state. The income range of the respondents in the communities

shows that N100,000 – N199,000 per annum recorded the highest percentage (63%), this was largely due to the fact that the kind of farm practice in these communities are subsistence farming with very few of the farmers engaging in the cultivation of cash crops. It was observed that these set of people (farmers/hunters) do not keep record of their income, the assumption was based on how many of their students are in primary/secondary schools, how much are they paying on their school fees and how much are they spending on feeding per day. This was followed by the respondents with the income range of <N100,000/annum (21%), N200,000 – N300,000 (12%), >N300,000 (4%).

Table 4: Income range

S/N	Income	Frequency	Percentage
1	<N100,000/annum	21	21
2	N100,000 – N199,000	63	63
3	N200,000 – N300,000	12	12
4	>N300,000	4	4
	Total	100	100

Source: Field work 2017

Education/Literacy level

The education level of the population is often used as an indicator of the socio economic development of the country. Moreover, many phenomena such as reproductive behaviour, use of contraception, infant and child mortality and hygienic habits are affected by education. Various government policies and programmes on education have been introduced in Nigeria since 1976, such as 6-3-3-4 system of education, which established six years of primary education, three years of junior and senior secondary education. The last segment of four years is for university or polytechnic education.

Among the states of the federation, Ondo State is one of the states with the largest number of public primary and secondary schools. There are over 880 public schools and over 190 public secondary schools spread all over the state. There are five state unity secondary schools and two Federal unity secondary schools at Akure and Idoani. There are also several private nursery, primary and secondary schools in many towns as also many tertiary institutions have been established.

The result of the analysis of the administered questionnaire revealed that greater percentage of the inhabitants were literate (64%) and 36% were illiterate. Those considered literate are the respondents with minimum qualification of secondary school leaving certificate and above.

Table 5: Educational background in the community

S/N	Educational background	Frequency	Percentage
1	Literate	128	64
2	Illiterate	72	36
	Total	200	100

Source: Field work 2017

Education facilities

There are government and privately owned primary and secondary schools in the communities.

Mineral resources

Ondo state a member of Nigeria Oil Producing States, petroleum is now extracted offshore in riverine areas of the state, made the state part of Niger Delta state. Other

minerals available include tar sand (bitumen), especially in Okitipupa and Irele LGA's; kaolin clay in Ile-oluji/Oke Igbo, Ondo and Odigbo LGAs, iron ore in Ifedore, Akure, Odigbo, Idanre (Host LGA), Akoko North East, Akoko North West, Akoko South East and akoko South West; granite in Idanre and Ileji/Oke Igbo LGAs; and quartz sand at Ilaje, Okotipupa and Ese Odo LGAs. FEPA (1995) Jeje, (1983) ^[4].

Furthermore, there are other minerals such as coal, columbite, tin and marble, many of which are at different stages of prospecting, extracting and development.

Energy

The Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) is the main generator and distribution of electricity in the state. Due to the irregular supply of power, people used various alternative source of power such as generators, firewood, kerosene lamp and stove, solar lightings and charcoal as source of energy.

Tourism and Recreation

A variety of tourist attractions abound in the state. Among the leading spots is the historic Idanre Hill with guest houses built by the government. Others are Ayetoro Community of Holy Apostles, Owo museum of antiquity, Oke Maria at Oka-Akoko, the Palace of Deji of Akure, Ebomi Lake at Ipesi-Akoko and Iho Eleru at Isarun, Igbo Oludumare and Igbo Irunmole.

Study reveals that Idanre Hills is a breathing landscape that also provides a window to the town's colourful history. From a few kilometers to the town centre, a first time visitor will not cease to marvel at the aesthetics, architecture and thoroughness employed by nature in the assemblage of hills of various shapes and sizes at Idanre, also called 'Oke Idanre' by the locals.

The evergreen landscape surrounding the hills provides fellowship with nature's best. The peacefulness that pervades the atmosphere, the blossoming civilisation that existed on the hills, the rigours of climbing, a refreshing swim in Arun River, all make the Idanre Hills a wonderful place to visit. If you are adventurous enough, the tallest of the hills rises about 300ft above sea level, challenges you to a climbing game. Those who successfully dare the peak are rewarded with the very rare panoramic view of the topography at bird's eye, which is a unique fortitude for ancient residents.

However, you need a little background of the people and their protective hills to better appreciate the nature that adorn the Idanre setting. The people of Idanre had existed on the hills for at least 800 years. Features on the hills lend proof to this assertion as they suggest that the security that the hills provided for the people of Idanre was responsible for their choice of the hills as their home.

Housing

Housing to man is only next to food. It is a known fact that residential accommodation remains one of the most pressing needs of the citizens of the state.

Greater percentage of houses in this community is constructed with cement block wall and corrugated iron sheet or Zink roof. Buildings with mud wall and iron sheet roof also exist in some quarters. It was generally observed that most of these houses lack proper sanitary facilities for waste disposal.

Household size

Due to the polygamous nature of the community greater percentage (42%) of the inhabitants maintain a polygamous setting 28% were extended family while 30% of the respondents had a nuclear family type. The household size is as shown on Table 4.47 with 42.5% of the respondents with household size of 6 – 10 followed by those with the household size of 40.6%, the least were the respondents in the household range of 1 – 5.

Table 6: Household size

S/N	Household size	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	1-5	8	7.5
2	6-10	45	42.5
3	11-15	43	40.6
4	16-20	10	9.4
Total		106	100

Source: Field work 2017

Condition of roads

The road is to the human society what the vein and arteries are to the human body. They form the vehicles of social engineering because they are the bedrock of material and service ex-change between and among people of diverse origin and locations.

From the study, the roads mainly lead to the various house units and are in poor condition due to undulations, flood and un-paved manner in which they pose. Their use in the transportation of goods and services has also been identified as being responsible for the high cost of goods and services in the study area. Most of those interviewed lamented the pain they go through in trying to bring food products from the farms to the cities. In most cases, when and where the motor-bikes cannot be used, they locals results to carrying their loads on their heads thus reducing efficiency and efficacy in service delivery.

Markets

The art of buying and selling is as old as man. The trading activities of small scale establishments which predominates the commerce of the rural communities in Africa (as obtains in the study area) are in most cases carried out in the market places. A market may be defined as a site where sellers and buyers assemble on a specific day and time to exchange good and services. Markets of this nature have been in existence in tropical Africa for centuries especially in West Africa and part of the central Africa (Okafor and Onokerhoraye, 1994). They are today popularly known as traditional markets. These markets provide avenue for the exchange of goods, ideas, fashion as well as performing significant social and political functions in the communities in which they are located.

There are different categories of market in the communities. There are those being opened every five days intervals, the names of the markets include Oja-Olufon, Olokuta, Elegbeka, Oriohin and Omi Arafa. At the peak of the farming season, the market days are shortened to three days intervals.

Water Supply

Water is an important constituent of biotic community. In nature, it occurs on the land, below its surfaces, in atmosphere and in the biomass. According to Narayannan (2007), 97% of the total volume of water available is in the

ocean, 2% stored in the form of ice-sheets and less than 1% is available as fresh water. The sources of water ranges from deep well to pipe borne from the state Water Corporation. The provision of portable water in the state has to do with activities of Ondo State Water Corporation. Today, all major urban centers and towns have portable water. Many villages have benefited from over twenty five water schemes operated by Ondo State Water Corporation. For instance, the little Ose River Water Supply Project serves not less than sixty six towns villages in Akoko and Owo areas and part of Ekiti State. Borehole schemes have been established in many towns including Owo, Ode-Irele, Ilutitun, Okeluse and Ute (Ondo State Water Corporation 1988). The target of the present administration is to raise the portable water availability in the State to 66% by 2007. With the new trend in solar power generation, nearly every village in the state has been provided with solar borne holes.

There are different sources of water in these communities. The issue of water is germane to the people of the communities as many of the time they rely on stream and spring water. Borehole dug by the state government complements the source of water. In Ifon, rehabilitation of the Ifon Water Works two years ago has not been brought much relieve to the inhabitants since they still depend on boreholes, brooks and streams dug by the government.

Solid waste

Different methods of disposing waste in the community include nearby bushes and organized waste collection van by the government. All the respondents indicated their active participation in the monthly environmental exercised organized by the State Government.

Health care facilities/hospitals

The World Health Organization (WHO) recognized the role of good health care system and, therefore, opines that health is not only the absence of infirmity, but includes the overall wellbeing of the people. The measure or the availability of good healthcare system has helped to rekindle the hope of the people in terms of long life expectancy locally and internationally. WHO (1976) ^[15].

Various categories of health and medical facilities exist in the state belonging to the governments, religious Organizations and private individuals. Presently, there is a Federal Medical Center at Owo. The state government has specialist hospitals at Akure, Ikare and Ondo while it has established General Hospitals at Idanre, Igbara-Oke, Ile-Oluji and Okitipupa. There are also private health care clinic in all communities in the state.

Furthermore, there are Primary Health Centers with consulting medical doctors. There are over fifteen of such, including mobiles ones for the riverine areas of the state. Local Government Areas (LGA) operates dispensaries and maternity homes in many towns and villages. There are 18 state owned comprehensive Health Centers, General Hospitals and State Specialist Hospitals.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study the following conclusions can be made. The social economic activities do not pose any major threat to human lives in the community. Recommendations

Based on the conclusions summarized above, the following

recommendations are made for implementation: The study finding should be incorporated to form the basic guideline for operation in the community and should be used in checking any adverse effect that any other activities that are non socio economic may have on various environmental components.

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