

**Volume 1, Issue 1**

**Research Article**

**Date of Submission:** 19 February, 2025

**Date of Acceptance:** 30 May, 2025

**Date of Publication:** 13 June, 2025

## The History of the Igbo Community in Kwali from 1976-2015

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**Citation:** O. C. Ogbu., G. Ogbu, A. A. Adebayo, B. E., Adetoun., J. C. Ogbu (2025). The History of the Igbo Community in Kwali from 1976-2015. *Lett Econ Res Updates*, 1(1), 01-04.

### Abstract

This work studies the role of the Igbo community in the socioeconomic development of Kwali since 1976-2015. To achieve this, it examines the history of the Igbos and the cause of their migration to Kwali. Historical research methods involving the use of primary and secondary sources were used in the study. Research findings shows that Igbo have contributed to the socioeconomic development of Kwali in areas of small and medium enterprise, commercial activities, transport system as well as property development

### Introduction

The Scientific study of human development seeks to explain how and why people change throughout life. This includes all aspects of human growth, including physical, social, emotional and personal development. The study of human development is of basic importance to every subject which includes history, sociology, biology etc. Development carries a connotation of lasting change. It also consists of more than improvement in the well-being of citizens. It conveys something about capacity of economic and social systems to provide circumstances for that wellbeing on a sustainable long-term basis.

This study aims in demonstrating the impact and contribution of the Igbos in Kwali as a case study. The introductory chapter of this research discusses and analyses the aims and objective of the case study. It covers the methodology to be adopted which includes the background of the study, statement of problem, scope and limitations of the research. The second part tends to discuss the history or origin of the Igbo in Kwali, it also describes the Igbo civilization and the foundation of the Igbo, their social structure in the Igbo society, it's political system, kingship and palace organization. It further explains the socioeconomic structure and dynamics, the geographical features and economy of the people, it's education, politics and religion. It lastly highlights the reasons why the Igbos have migrated to Abuja and their sociocultural integration with the host community (Kwali).

The next aspect highlights the contribution of the Igbo community from 1976-2015 through health sector, skilled workers transportation, food and livestock in Kwali. It explains the large impact of the Igbos in creation of relaxation and cool spots in Kwali, their religious and educational contribution. Lastly, it exposes the challenges faced by the Igbos in the Kwali community.

The last chapter deals with the conclusion aspect of the research as a detailed summary, conclusion and bibliography. This research work discusses the role of the Igbo community to the socioeconomic development of Kwali from 1976-2015. The major problem of associated with this research study was that there is no literature on the contributions of the Igbo community in Kwali.

## **Aim**

The aim of the study was examined through studying the intergroup relations between the Igbos and people of Kwali, how the Igbos have made contributions, challenges faced by the Igbos in Kwali, contributions of the Igbos to the development of Kwali and reasons for their migration to Kwali.

## **Justification**

This research helps in education of the contribution of the Igbo to the socioeconomic development of Kwali.

## **Scope and Limitations of Study**

The research covers the time frame between 1976-2015. It is restricted to the role of the Igbo community to the development of Kwali.

## **Research Methodology**

The methodology used in this research is the historical research methodology. The researcher used both primary and secondary sources of information. Under primary sources of data collection, the researcher used information gathered from field through oral interview, eyewitness account, personal knowledge.

## **Land and People of Abuja**

Abuja is located in the center of Abuja and has a land area of 8000 square kilometers. It is bounded on the North by Kaduna state, on the west by Niger state, on the east and south east by Nassarawa state and on the South by Kogi State.

## **Creation of the Fct and Migration of the Igbo Into the Area**

The search for a suitable location for the nations federal capital territory is as old as the colonial history of Nigeria. At the end of the slave trade European traders turned their article of trade into palm produce and other primary products. The competition and rivalry between these traders reached an alarming stage culminating in Berlin in 1885 to resolve the competing claims of these different European interests. At the conference, the area now known as Nigeria was granted in the British because of the religious and economic influence which it had in the area. At first the British were satisfied to live their trading and administrative interests in the hands of their trading companies. The Royal Niger Company which assumed this role then became not just trading company but also a kind of colonial government.

The Igbo community assembly of the federal capital territory with innocent ihiene ochiabuto as traditional ruler, eze Igbo II of karshi, fct, Abuja. He was conferred this title in recognition of his leadership qualities during his service as a civil servant.

The Igbo migrant interviewed during the course of this research were asked the state of origin and reason for their migration. An indigene of Anambra state who migrated from Kaduna state due to a job contract had lived in Kwali area council since the year 2000 [1]. Mr. Johnson Alaku migrated to Kwali as a result of work transfer from Lagos airport to Abuja. He hails from Enugu state [2]. According to Mrs. Edith nkollo, her reason for migration was due to marriage to Mr. Godswill nkollo in 2001. She hails from Enugu state another person that migrated due to marriage is pastor John who was transferred to another district of his church [3].

The indigenes of Kwali and other migrant group relate well with the Igbos in terms of trade, socially, some igbos even go as far as learning other tribes like Hausa and Gbagyi in order to relate well with the host community.

According to Lilian okafor, the host community do not allow the igbos participate in any political activity other than voting.

According to Johnson Alaku, agriculture is the main stay of his family as it involves his wife and children. He owns several farmlands with fertile soil very conducive for farming. The growth of the crops are bonds to reflect on the entire structure of the economic system of Kwali particularly the type of crops cultivated.

## **Contributions of the Igbo Community in Kwali**

### **Food and Livestock**

The Igbos in Kwali played very important role in the provision of food. In the act of exercising their entrepreneurship skills, Igbo migrants established restaurant business and fast-food business. The dominant ethnic group in fast food business is the igbos

### **Transportation**

The Igbos in Kwali are also traveling agents. The contributions of the Igbo community in Kwali in the transport system and through the transport system can be seen in two angles: transporters and traveling agents. Mr. Boniface who hails from Enugu as a traveling agent be like most of his colleagues help to besiege embassies and wait in long queues. They solve problem of buying tickets and other traveling procedures. They solve problems of unemployment as some employ secretary and rent office spaces.

## ICT

The Igbos did not hesitate to impact to the people of Kwali both indigenes and non-indigenes. Mr. Bob umeh from Anambra state came into Kwali since 2004 and established an ICT firm where people come to surf the net and acquire ICT knowledge. The firm has empowered people in the last 14 years in ICT development.

## Socio-Cultural Development

Culturally, the norms and values of the Igbos is different from that of the Gbagyi in Kwali. The integration with the Gbagyi saw Igbo sons and daughters speaking Gbagyi. The percentage of those who speak this language is minimal when compared to other languages.

## Politics

The Igbos were only permitted to contribute politically by obtaining their permanent voters' card which they use to cast their vote in the area council chairman and councilor level during election.

The Igbo community is faced with high cost of paying for house and shop rent. Benson njokwu who owns Ben ventures limited advising the government to help regulate revenue and to make it mandatory to do sanitation once in every month. However, the epileptic nature of power supply is having great impact on the migrant community.

## Summary

This research has discussed the history of the Igbo community in Kwali from 1976-2015. It discussed how the geographical location of the people influences their socioeconomic and cultural setting. The major inhabitants of Abuja, the Gbagyi, Bassa, Koro, Gade, Ganagana with the Gbagyi consisting of the largest ethnic group in Abuja. It went further to discuss the reason for moving the capital from Lagos to Abuja in 1976, the history of the Igbos and the migration trends in Abuja, the integration between the host community and the migrant community and stressed how minimal the level of integration is. The contribution of the Igbo community to the development of Kwali was subdivided into transportation, ICT, entrepreneur, food and livestock.

## Recommendation

The researcher Ogbu Ogechi Charity would like to advise the government to look into the matter of election in the Kwali ward so that the Igbos can equally be voted for since the economic and social contribution have opened up Kwali so they can feel at home. Some of the indigenes do not show care as they always appear harsh and mean to some Igbo immigrants. The indigenes should learn to associate with strangers because it always helps in development. This can help educate them because it would lead to peace and progress. Due to the limitation creation by the scope of this work which limits the research on a single ethnic group, recommendation is that more research should be made on the economic contribution of the Igbo community in the Kwali area council.

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## Oral Interview

<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Place of interview</b>	<b>Date</b>
Musa Zakka	50	M	Farmer	Kwali area council	10-7-2018
O. Iliya	42	M	Civil servant	Kwali area council	10-7-2028
Lilian okafor	37	F	Business woman	Lambata	20-8-2018
Bob umeh	51	M	Business man	Sheda	20-8-2018
Boniface okoro	34	M	Travel agent	Kwali	20-8-2018
John ikeagwu	40	M	Pastor	Kwali	20-9-2018
Johnson Alaku	34	M	Business man	Kwali	20-9-2018
Walter okafor	40	M	Business man	Kwali	2-9-2018
Benson njokwu	39	M	Business man	Lambata	2-9-2018
Joan nwachukwu	35	F	Business woman	Kwali	9-9-2018
Edith Nkollo	37	M	Teacher	Sheda	9-9-2018
Child odogwu	37	M	Music group	Kwali	20-9-2018
John Bosco Bob	40	M	Business man	Sheda	20-9-2018
Aloius musa	39	M	Statesman	Kwali	21-9-2018