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An Ikwerri Ibo (Ikwerre-Igbo) village showing the Obiri

By Chuka Odike

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FEATURE
IMAGE

An Ikwerri Ibo village showing the Obiri, P. A. Talbot (1930s)

Article image · caption retained from the published Ozikoro article



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The “Obiri” in a typical Igbo village refers to a communal gathering space or meeting house, central to community life.

From the photo, it’s an open-air structure where village elders, leaders, and members gather for discussions, decision-making, and other communal events. The architectural style often reflects local materials such as mud walls, thatched or metal roofing, and wooden or bamboo pillars.

For a detailed visualization: the obiri would be a central, semi-enclosed structure in the village. Surrounding it might be traditional huts with conical thatched roofs, small paths leading to farms, and a marketplace nearby.

Large trees could provide shade, and the environment would show signs of daily village activities like women gathering water or preparing food, children playing, and elders sitting around, discussing community affairs.

Tribes of the Niger Delta – P. A. Talbot, 1930s

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Chuka Odike

I'm a dedicated civil engineer with a passion for infrastructure development and community empowerment. With a strong background in engineering, my work focuses on creating sustainable solutions for urban and rural development projects. Outside of my professional career, I'm deeply interested in Igbo history and culture. I actively explores ways to impact society by using historical lessons to inspire and educate others about the rich cultural heritage of the Igbo people, aiming to bridge tradition and modern development.



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