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Gender Equality in Anioma and Preserving traditions: *Balancing the dominance of men in Community Leadership*

By Chukwunwike Ossai

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In Anioma, women played a crucial role through their associations in making sure there's gender balance in political and social spheres.

Omu group, with Otu Umu Ada and Otu Inyemedi, acted as the key institutions that gave opportunity for women's significance and influence on the affairs of the community.

Omu association is led by a woman that is elected, the association is heavily involved in seeing to the activities of market activities and local trades.

The Omu association also imposed fines alongside maintaining peace and order. The roles played by the Omu association gave women voice in political and economic matters. Additionally, the association was present in council meetings where decisions that affects the lives and welfare of the towns were made, making sure that the voice of women was heard in a society that seems to be dominated by men.

Other strong women associations are Otu Umu Ada (women born into the community) accompanied with Otu Inyemedi (women married into the community). They also played important roles in preserving social order and could discipline the people found violating the traditional customs of the land, giving women authority, just like men and these various groups ensures that the society values and respect women Through taking part in political and economic decision-making.



Through these associations, Anioma women kept systems that checks and balances gender equality and also preserved the societal traditions. The influence of these women associations played key role in counterweighting the male power thereby rekindling women to be major community stakeholders.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Chukwunwike Ossai

An enthusiast in tech with deep passion for studying and showcasing the vibrant cultural heritage of southern Nigeria . Combining my skill with my obsession towards African history and traditions to create contributions that impacts the digital space.



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