



Ozi Ikòrò

AFRICAN HISTORY · CULTURE · INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Umuada: *Women Leadership Roles in the Igbo Society*

By Chizobem Chinedu Opiah

Ozikoro.com · Cultural Heritage · 1 min read

FEATURE
IMAGE

**Rich Onitsha Women decorated with
Odu Enyi, photographed by G. F.
Packer in 1880s**

Article image · caption retained from the published Ozikoro article

Ozi Ikòrò
UMUADA

Umuada: Women Leadership Roles in the Igbo Society

By Chizobem Chinedu Opiah · Cultural Heritage · Ozikoro.com

Umuada Umuada translates to “daughters of the land” or “daughters of the family” and refers to a group of women who are originally from a particular village or clan but are married into different families and communities. Despite their marriages, they maintain a strong connection to their place of origin. Structure and Membership: Membership: The...



Rich Onitsha Women decorated with Odu Enyi, photographed by G. F. Packer in 1880s

01

Umuada

Umuada translates to “daughters of the land” or “daughters of the family” and refers to a group of women who are originally from a particular village or clan but are married into different families and communities. Despite their marriages, they maintain a strong connection to their place of origin.

- **Membership:** The Umuada consists of women who were born in a particular village or community but have married into other communities. Their status in Umuada is often based on their origin, not their current marital status.
- **Leadership:** Leadership within the Umuada can vary depending on the community, but typically, senior and respected members take on leadership roles. This might include an elected chairperson or a group of elders.

02

Functions and Roles

- **Preserving cultural heritage:** Umuada carries the responsibility of passing down traditions, customs, and values from one generation to the next.
- **Conflict resolution:** Umuada often serves as mediators in disputes within the family and community.
- **Family support:** Umuada provides emotional and financial support to their families and other members of the kindred, village, clan, and society.
- **Community development:** Umuada contributes to community development through various initiatives and projects.
- **Representation:** Umuada represents their families and lineages in important ceremonies and events.

- Guidance and mentorship: Umuada offers guidance and mentorship to younger generations.
- Spiritual significance: In some cases, Umuada may also have spiritual roles and responsibilities.

Umuada represents a vital aspect of Igbo social structure, their roles in cultural preservation, conflict resolution, and community support highlight their importance in maintaining the social fabric of their communities.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Chizobem Chinedu Opiah

Chikwere is a passionate history blogger dedicated towards sharing fascinating stories and untold tales of Igbo history and culture. I am also a Graphic Designer and a Tech enthusiasts. I developed a deep love for Igbo culture and tradition since my teenage age. So far I've learnt alot about Igbo History and Culture and I'll share the knowledge acquired so far in this space of Igbo History and Culture. Daalu.



Ozi Ikòrò

History worth reading.

African history · culture · indigenous knowledge
