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Utagba-Uno: *A Study of Socio-Cultural Resilience and Modern Development in an Anioma Community*

By Chukwunwike Ossai

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FEATURE
IMAGE

A woman with her bicycle in Utagba Uno.
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UTAGBA-UNO

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Utagba-Uno is a big village with enough hustle inside the Ndokwa West Local Government Area in Delta State, Nigeria. It is among some of the main towns where Ukwuani is spoken in Anioma. It acts as a center for culture and governmental work in nearby villages. The place is located along the Kwale-Umutu road, which is why it is situated where enough traders and people meet.

How Utagba-Uno Started Stories And How They Settled

It was said that the people who started Utagba-Uno originated from big Igbo communities (maybe Nri-Akwa) They settled down in a good land between Ase and River Niger. They have family connections with the people of Ukwuani, such as Umutu and Abbi. The name “Utagba-Uno” means “Utagba in homeland,” so it is differentiated from places like Utagba-Ogbe.

Colonial Era and After Independence It was put under British rule by the whites in the early 1900s It was situated in the Warri province Joined the Mid-Western Region in(1963-1976) Later, it entered Bendel State before the Origin of the Delta in 1991.

Utagba-Uno has a strong local leadership: Obi (king), who watches culture Council of Elders (Ndichie): Family heads and famous titled men. Age Grade (Otu-Ogbo): Groups in charge of community work.

Modernity It is one of the headquarters in the Ndokwa West Local

Government Area (with Kwale) It has offices in the Local Government Send out representatives at the state and local levels.

Farming is the basic source of income Food crops: yams, cassava, plantain, maize. Cash Crops: palm oil, rubber, and cashew. Fishing: In riverine areas Buying and Selling Utagba-Uno Market: A big weekly trading spot, Many petty trades for food and house equipment, Banks and POS are partially existing, Small garri and palm oil businesses, Most people who have handworking skills like blacksmithing and basket weaving are still seeking government jobs.

Language and Their Personalities They speak Ukwuani (a dialect of Igbo) and are strongly connected to the Ndokwa/Ukwuani people. Festivals and Ceremonies Iwa Ji (New Yam Festival): A big harvest party Ogene Dance: Way Back, kinds of music and dance Marriage: Talks about bride price Religion: Most people are Christians (Catholics, Anglicans, and Pentecostal churches). Most people still worship their gods, and Muslims are also developing.

Schools Many public primary and secondary schools, with vocational service centers, are close to Delta State Polytechnic's Kwale campus.

Hospitals General Hospital Utagba-Uno Private clinics and chemists are present, The presence of traditional midwives,

Roads and Light Good roads link Kwale and Umutu together The steady movement of buses and motorcycles The light there is preferable as compared to most nearby towns Activeness of the borehole water project.

Issues of Development Roads still need to be fixed Lack of job employment for youths, making them move to cities Oil mining damages the land

Cultural problems Youths fail to learn the old ways. Land disputes with neighboring communities. Modernity is disturbing traditions.

Chances of growing Upgrading of farms with better plans Using
 culture to bring in tourists Bringing in more government offices
 Helping the young Teaching computers and other digital skills Setting
 up minor business programs Building of sporting facilities

Utagba-Uno is one of the sharpest villages in Ndokwa, mixing the
 culture of Ukwuani with modern hustle. Its location and government
 jobs can make it grow higher, but they need to fix the roads and
 provide employment for the youth. If they are able to maintain their
 culture while moving forward, then the future will be great.

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An enthusiast in tech with deep passion for studying and showcasing the vibrant cultural
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