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# SPATIO-TEMPORAL ANALYSIS OF IGBO TRADERS AND THEIR SOCIO-ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES IN ILORIN METROPOLIS

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## Abstract

Interactions in urban centres are multi-dimensional and complex, involving activities, location, timing, duration, and sequence. It is no doubt that Igbo entrepreneurs play vital roles in the growth of the economy in the Ilorin Metropolis. This study examines Igbo traders' spatial-temporal patterns and their socio-economic activities in the Ilorin Metropolis. The study uses primary data which include personal interviews and questionnaire administration. Yamane's formula was employed to obtain the required and appropriate sample size. A set of 249 questionnaires was distributed among Igbo traders in six different locations. Chi-Square statistic was used to test for the relationship between Igbo traders and their socio-economic activities. The data collected were analysed using descriptive statistical tools such as cross-tabulation and percentages. The result of the questionnaire administration indicates that Igbo traders contribute to job opportunities and increase the standard of living of the people in the Ilorin Metropolis. In addition, the Chi-Square analysis result shows a significant relationship between the spatio-temporal location of Igbo traders and their socio-economic activities because the value of Chi-square calculated ( $X^2 = 115.8$ ) is greater than the critical value (7.815). Therefore, the study recommends that the State Government and Financial Institutions make credit facilities accessible and available to Igbo traders and reduce taxes to encourage entrepreneurial activities within the Metropolis. In addition, the people of Ilorin and Nigeria should emulate the Igbo entrepreneurship culture for the nation's economic development.

**Keywords:** Spatial, Temporal, Igbo, Social, Economic, Activities, Ilorin

## Introduction

The study of the interaction between population, activities, and times is multi-dimensional. These dimensions include location, timing, duration, sequence, and type of activities and/or trips. According to Kwan, (2003), the characteristics of space-time behaviour have made the instantaneous analysis of its many dimensions critical. Cities are characterised by activities that form the basis for the concentration of people in them. Such activities are distinctively urban and include manufacturing, trading and finance, transportation, and tertiary activities. All these activities combine to form the spatial configuration of the city because their requirements are sometimes functionally differentiated and spatially separated.

The spatial separation of urban land use types forms

spatial inequality and needs spatial interaction for functional interrelationships. The urban centre of today is complex in nature, covers a large expanse of land, and accommodates varied activities (Osoba, 2012; Raji, 2013). Vast amounts of interaction occur daily in urban areas. These interactions occur among people through their activities at specific locations for specific durations. Interactions in urban centres are multi-dimensional and multifaceted, involving activities, location, timing, duration, and sequence.

It is no doubt that Igbo entrepreneurs play vital roles in the growth of the economy in Ilorin city and Nigeria in general. Igbo Entrepreneurial activities have been considered the pillar of the economy of many cities and have facilitated an improved standard of living for the people. According to

Maliga (2011), 74% of investments in Lagos are owned by Igbos, and this investment is not less than N300 trillion. Igbo investment in Abuja and Plateau State is about N600 trillion and N15 trillion, respectively (Clement, 2013). Agazie (2012) opined that Nigeria would collapse like 1-2-3 or like a flimsy deck of cards if you remove the Igbos from the country.

Gentle and Onuoha (2018) opined that small business firms form the bedrock of economic growth in every nation. Without establishing a small business firm, no country achieves viable economic growth and development. Similarly, Onuoha (2018) opined that SMEs contribute significantly to any nation's economic growth and development. Among all the ethnic groups in Nigeria, Igbos are well-known with a unique trait that can ultimately serve as a solution tool for the dynamic economic situation of developing nations of the world. This set of people is cultured, particularly in the area of business. Many believed that most Igbo business veterans acquired business skills from their past colonial masters. In addition, It was perceived that the post-civil war placed an agony of survival before the Igbos, forcing both the rich and prominent ones to consider the investment of their little money for returns. Based on this background, therefore, this study examined the Spatio-temporal patterns of Igbo traders and their socio-economic activities, that is, the degree of spatial fixity of each activity and its implications on socio-economic activities in Ilorin Metropolis. The specific objectives of the study are to i) identify the various activities of the Igbo traders in the study area, their location, the times of the day the activities take place, and their duration; ii) examine the relationship between the socio-economic activities of Igbo traders and the time spent on these activities based on their gender, education qualification, occupation, and age; and iii) evaluate the impacts of the Spatio-temporal location of Igbo traders on the economic activities in the Ilorin Metropolis.

### **The Study Area**

Ilorin is the capital of Kwara State. It is located at Latitudes 8°24' and 8°36' N and Longitudes 4° 10' and 4°36'E. It lies on the southern fringes of the

savannah region and north of the forest zone. Ilorin is located in the Guinea savanna grassland belt of the middle belt region of Nigeria. Ilorin was founded by the Yoruba, one of Nigeria's three largest ethnic groups, in 1450. Ilorin has a total Landmass of about 295 sq mi (765 km<sup>2</sup>) and has experienced rapid growth in its population over the years. The first population census in 1911 put the population of Ilorin at 36,343, while the 1953 population census put the town's population at 40,994. The 1963 and 1991 censuses recorded the town's population as 208,546 and 532,088, respectively. As of 2006, it had a population of 766,000, with a growth rate of 2.5% (NPC, 2006).

The political economy of Ilorin can be traced to 1967, when Kwara State was created. Since then, Ilorin has undergone various developmental efforts initiated by the State and federal governments. Due to the increase in population and urbanisation in Ilorin, more houses are being built, roads are being constructed, companies and industries are being put in place, and delicate structures are being erected. The city is a confluence of cultures, populated by Yoruba, Hausa, Fulani, Nupe, Baruba, other Nigerians, and foreign nationals.

There are very significant Christian and Islamic populations in the town. Many ceremonial activities, primarily religious, occur in the city throughout the year. Ilorin presents the visitors with a friendly environment (generally called the "State of Harmony") and hosts different religious practices and training institutions. The city boasts Nigeria's most significant traditional pottery workshops (Adedayo and Oyebanji, 1986). They are located in the Dada area of Okelele, Eletu in Oju Ekun, Okekura, Oloje, Abe Emi, and Ita Merin. (Kwara State Diary, 2012). Also thriving is the traditional textile industry. In various parts of the city, Aso Oke, the beautiful textiles and hand-woven on simple looms are made in large quantities. Traders patronise Aso Oke and fashion designers from Kwara State, other parts of Nigeria, and abroad. Figure 1 shows the spatial pattern of activities in Ilorin.

### **Material and Methods**

Both primary and secondary data were used for this study. The socio-economic attributes of Igbo traders,



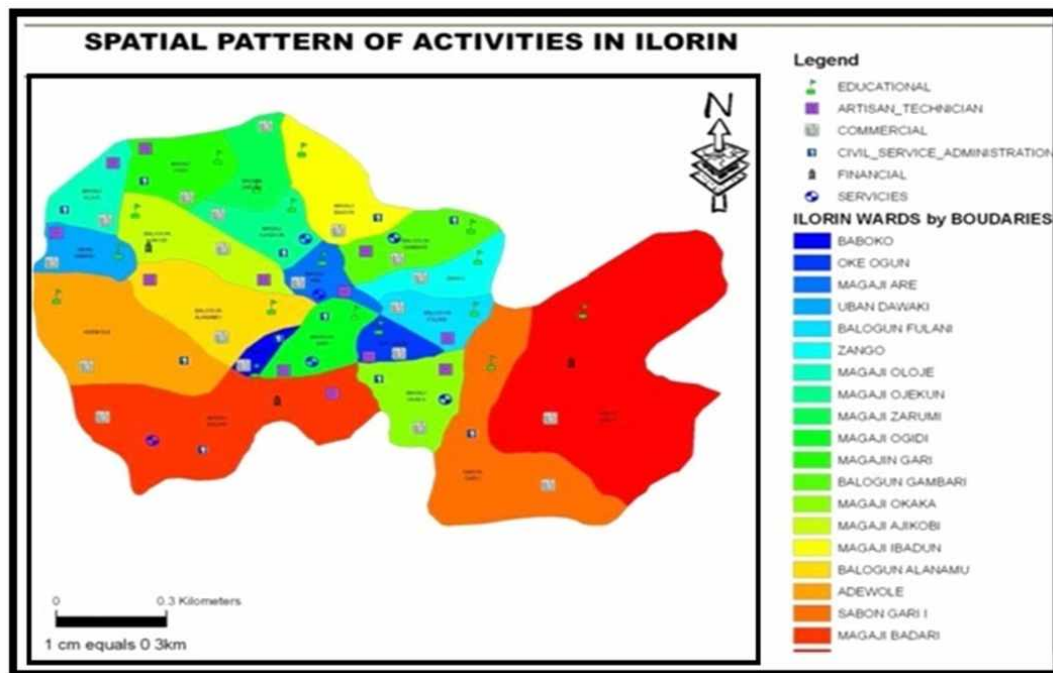


Figure 1: Ilorin showing the spatial pattern of activities

Spatio-temporal locations, types of trading activities, and time of activities were obtained through personal interviews and questionnaire administration. The sampling frame for this study was all the locations of Igbo traders in the Ilorin Metropolis. Purposive and simple random sampling techniques were used to select the locations where the questionnaires were administered. The following sites were therefore selected; Taiwo Road, Agaka market, Post office, Maraba area, 'A' Division area opposite Olak filling station, and Offa garage road. The result of the pilot survey conducted revealed that about 654 Igbo traders reside in these locations. Therefore, in selecting the sample size for this study, Yamane's formula was employed to obtain the required and appropriate sample size.

Yamane's formula is denoted by:

**Where:**

$$\begin{aligned}
 n &= \text{Sample size} \\
 N &= \text{Population} \\
 e &= \text{Significant level (0.05\%)}
 \end{aligned}
 \quad n = \frac{N}{1 + (e)^2}$$

Based on Yamane's formula stated above, the sample size for this study was two hundred and forty-nine (249). However, out of two hundred and forty-nine (249) questionnaires distributed, two hundred and thirty-one (231), representing 93%, were filled and returned. Forty (40) questionnaires were administered at Taiwo Road, 45 at Agaka Market,

(40 at the Post Office, 41 at Maraba, 35 at 'A' Division, and 30 at Offa Garage based on the population of Igbo traders in the area.

Both descriptive and inferential statistics were used in the analysis of the data. Percentages were used to describe the demographic characteristics of respondents, the spatial location of Igbo traders, type of trade activities carried out by the Igbo traders in their various locations, temporal location of Igbo traders, sources of Funds/capital for business activities (credit facility), problems encountered by Igbo traders in their various locations and socio-economic benefits derived by the people from Igbo traders. Chi-Square statistics were used to examine the relationship between the spatio-temporal location of Igbo traders and the socio-economic activities of the people and the relationship between the socio-economic activities of Igbo traders and the development that emerged in their environment.

## Results and Discussion

### *Demographic Characteristics of Respondents*

Table 1 reveals that the male group has the highest number of respondents. This was based on the fact that, out of the two hundred and thirty-one (231) copies of questionnaires collected, male respondents were 164 representing 71%, compared with 67 female respondents constituting 29%. This implies that most of the population engaging in

entrepreneurial activities are males, while the remaining respondents are females. A holistic view of the age distribution of respondents reveals that the age bracket 26-33 years is the dominant age, with 106 respondents comprising 46% of the population (Figure 1). The respondents in the age bracket 18-25 included 12% of the population accounting for 27 respondents; 86 persons accounted for 37% (34-41), while 12 respondents showed 5% in bracket 42 and above.

Table 1 also indicates that eighty-nine (89), representing about 38.5% of the respondents, are single. About 60.6% of the respondents are married, which is equivalent to 140 respondents. Only two (2) people, who accounted for 0.9% of the respondents, are divorced. Also, from the Table, about 32.0%, 44.2%, and 14.7% of the respondents held primary school education certificates, Secondary School education certificates, and Tertiary education certificates, respectively, while 9.1% had no formal education. The number of respondents with non-formal education was the least, while those with secondary education ranked the highest. These clearly show that most of the respondents were adequately literate.

### *The Spatial Location of Igbo traders within Ilorin-Metropolis*

From Table 2, 11.3% (male) and 6.1% (female) of the respondents are located at Taiwo Road, 17.3% (male) and 2.2% (female) of the respondents are located at Agaka market, 11.3% (male) and 61.3% (female) of the respondents are located at Post Office, 13.4% (male) and 4.3% (female) of the respondents are located at Maraba, 9.9% (male) and 5.2% (female) of the respondents are located at 'A' Division while 7.7% (male) and 5.2% (female) of the respondents are located at Offa garage. This implies that a high proportion of Igbo traders are located at the Agaka market while a small proportion is located at the Offa garage.

### *Type of Trading Activities Carried out by the Igbo Traders*

Table 3 indicates that two (2) respondents representing 5.0% of the total respondents at Taiwo engage in Auto-spares materials, twenty-three (23) representing 51.1% of the respondents at Agaka market engage in Auto-spares materials, while twelve (12) representing 40.0% of the respondents at Offa garage engage in Auto-spares materials. Other locations engage in other articles. This implies that,

Table 1: Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

<b>Sex distribution</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Gender	Male	164	71
	Female	67	29
<b>Total</b>		<b>231</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Age distribution</b>			
Age	18-25 years	27	12
	26-33 years	106	46
	34-41 years	86	37
	42 years and above	12	5
<b>Total</b>		<b>231</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Marital status</b>			
	Single	89	38.5
	Married	140	60.6
	Divorced	2	0.9
<b>Total</b>		<b>231</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Educational Qualification</b>			
	Non-formal Education	21	9.1
	Primary School Education	74	32.0
	Secondary School Education	102	44.2
	Tertiary Education	34	14.7
<b>Total</b>		<b>231</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Author's Computation, 2021



within the Ilorin Metropolis, Auto-spare materials dominated the Agaka market. Results from 93% of a questionnaire issued to Igbo traders also showed that twenty-four (24) representing 60.0% of the respondents at Taiwo engage in Household electronics, ten (10) representing 24.4% of the respondents at Maraba engage in Household electronics, 33.3% of the respondents at Offa garage engage in the same product. The implication is that Taiwo road is dominated by Igbo traders trading in Household electronics.

Furthermore, Table 3 reveals that the 'A' Division opposite Olak filling station is dominated by Igbo traders trading in plumbing materials with a percentage of 77.7%, while other locations where plumbing materials can be found are: Taiwo with 10.0% of the respondents and Post-office with 35.0% of the respondents engage in plumbing materials as well. Further revealed in table 3 is the Igbo traders trading in wares materials. In Post Office, 65% of the Igbo traders sold wares, while 48.8% and 13.3% of the respondents also vended wares at Maraba and Offa garage, respectively. This

implies that goods are the predominant items sold by Igbo traders at the Post office. They also engage in other materials such as stationary, vehicle batteries, and bed mattresses.

#### *Length of Stay of Igbo Traders in selected areas of Ilorin*

The length of stay of Ibo traders at specific locations in the Ilorin metropolis is presented in Table 4 below. One hundred and five (105), representing 45.5% of the respondents, have been residing in Ilorin for about 1 – 9 years, and ninety-one (91), representing 39.4% of the respondents, have been residing in Ilorin for about 10 –19 years, twenty-five (25) representing 10.8% of the respondents have been residing in Ilorin for about 20 – 29 years while ten (10) representing 4.3% of the respondents have been residing in Ilorin for about 30 – 39 years. This implies that a high proportion of Igbo traders in some selected areas have their duration of residency within 1-9 years.

Table 2: Spatial Location of Igbo traders within Ilorin-Metropolis

	Male frequency	Percentage (%)	Female frequency	Percentage (%)
Taiwo Road	26	11.3	14	6.1
Agaka Market	40	17.3	5	2.2
Post Office	26	11.3	14	6.1
Maraba	31	13.4	10	4.3
'A' Division	23	9.9	12	5.2
Offa Garage	18	7.7	12	5.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>70.9</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>29.1</b>

Source: Author's Computation, 2021

Table 3: Type of Trade Activities carried out by the Igbo Traders in Ilorin

Trade	Taiwo Road	Agaka Market	Post Office	Maraba	Police 'A' Division	Offa Garage
Auto-spare materials	2	23	--	--	--	12
Percentage (%)	5.0%	51.1%	--	--	--	40.0%
Household electronics	24	--	--	10	2	10
Percentage (%)	60.0%	--	--	24.4%	5.7%	33.3%
Plumbing materials	4	--	14	--	27	--
Percentage (%)	10.0%	--	35.0%	--	77.7%	--
Wares	--	--	26	20	--	4
Percentage (%)	--	--	65.0%	48.8%	--	13.3%
Others Specify	10	22	--	11	6	4
Percentage (%)	25.0%	48.9%	--	26.8%	17.1%	13.3%
Total (Frequency in percentage)	40 (100%)	45 (100%)	40,100%	41,100%	35,100%	30,100%

Source: Author's Computation, 2021

Table 4: Length of stay of Igbo Traders in Selected Areas of Ilorin

Years	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1 -9 years	105	45.5%
10 – 19 years	91	39.4%
20 – 29 years	25	10.8%
30 – 39 years and above	10	4.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Author's Computation, 2021

**Duration of Daily Time Spent by Igbo Traders for Sale (Opening Hours)**

The duration of time spent opening for sale is represented in Table 5. It shows the mean duration of activities in an hour from day 1 to day 7. Six (6), representing 2.6% of the respondents, open between 1 – 6 hours daily, while one hundred and twenty-seven (127), representing 55.0% of the respondents, open between 8 – 9 hours daily. This implies that most Igbo traders open their shops between 8 – 9 hours daily.

Table 5: Duration of daily time spent by Igbo traders for sale (opening hours)

Duration (Time)	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1 – 6 hours daily	6	2.6%%
6 – 8 hours daily	47	20.3%
8 – 9 hours daily	127	55.0%
9 – 10 hours daily	41	17.7%
Others Specify	10	4.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Author's Computation, 2021

**Sources of Funds / Capital for Business Activities (Credit Facility)**

Table 6 indicates that 40.3% of the respondents have access to credit facilities from commercial banks, 58.9% of the respondents have access to credit facilities from cooperative houses. In comparison, 0.9% of the respondents only have access to credit facilities from monthly/daily contributions. The implication is that the entrepreneur business among the Igbo traders is at a small-scale level; only a few have been able to operate at a large-scale level. This indicates that despite the years that Igbo traders have been residing in Ilorin, they have not been able to industrialise Ilorin. This is because the Igbo traders in Ilorin have not been able to access adequate credit facilities from the commercial bank, which could have helped them to operate their trading activities at a large scale level.

Table 6: Sources of Funds/Capital for business activities (credit facility)

Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Commercial Banks	93	40.3%
Cooperative House	136	58.9%
Monthly/Daily contribution	2	0.9%
Others specify	--	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Author's Computation, 2021

**Problems Encountered by Igbo Traders**

The problems presented in table 7 were the major problems the respondents stated during the survey exercise.

Table 7: Problems encountered by Igbo traders in their various locations

Problems encountered	Number of respondents	Percentage (%)
<b>Taiwo Road</b>		
Government taxes	8	20%
Local Government taxes	18	45%
Association Levies	10	25%
Inadequate credit facility	4	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Akaka Market</b>		
Government taxes	5	11.1%
Local Government taxes	25	55.6%
Association Levies	8	17.8%
Inadequate credit facility	7	15.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Post Office</b>		
Government taxes	0	0%
Local Government taxes	36	90%
Association Levies	2	5.0%
Inadequate credit facility	2	5.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Maraba</b>		
Government taxes	0	0%
Local Government taxes	41	100%
Association Levies	0	0%
Inadequate credit facility	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Police 'A' Division</b>		
Government taxes	6	17.1%
Local Government taxes	29	82.9%
Association Levies	0	0%
Inadequate credit facility	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Offa Garage</b>		
Government taxes	0	0%
Local Government taxes	30	100%
Association Levies	0	0%
Inadequate credit facility	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Author's Computation, 2021

The result in Table 7 reveals that 45%, 55.6%, 90.0%, 100%, 82.9%, and 100% of the respondents are faced with the problem of Local Government taxes at Taiwo, Akaka Market, Post Office, Maraba, Police 'A' Division, and Offa Garage respectively. The implication is that the main problem encountered by the Igbo traders is the Local Government taxes. Thus, an increase in taxes will invariably contribute immensely to the high price of materials in the market.

#### *Socio-economic benefits derived by the people from Igbo traders*

The outcome of the survey carried out on the Igbo traders in the study area is presented in Table 8. The Socio-economic benefits derived from Igbo traders, Job opportunities accounted for 60%, 73.3%, and 73.3% of the respondents at Taiwo, Agaka Market, and Offa garage, respectively.

Table 8: Socio-economic Benefits Derived by the People from Igbo Traders

Benefits	Numbers of respondents	Percentage (%)
<b>Taiwo Road</b>		
Job opportunities	24	60%
Increase in standards of living	12	30%
Social infrastructural improvement/development	4	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Akaka Market</b>		
Job opportunities	33	73.3%
Increase in standards of living	8	17.8%
Social infrastructural improvement/development	4	8.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Post Office</b>		
Job opportunities	4	10%
Increase in standards of living	36	90%
Social infrastructural improvement/development	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Maraba</b>		
Job opportunities	20	48.8%
Increase in standards of living	21	51.2%
Social infrastructural improvement/development	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Police 'A' Division</b>		
Job opportunities	15	42.9%
Increase in standards of living	20	57.1%
Social infrastructural improvement/development	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Offa Garage</b>		
Job opportunities	22	73.3%
Increase in standards of living	6	20.0%
Social infrastructural improvement/development	2	6.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Author's Computation, 2021

In comparison, 90%, 51.2%, and 57.1% of respondents indicate an increase in the standard of living of the respondents at the Post office, Maraba, and Police 'A' Division, respectively. This implies that Igbo traders have contributed immensely to developing the Ilorin metropolis by creating job opportunities for the populace, and the products they marketed raised the people's standard of living.

#### *Relationship between Spatio-temporal Location of Igbo Traders and Socio-economic Activities*

Chi-square statistic was used to test for dependency or independency between the Spatio-temporal location of Igbo traders and socio-economic activities of the people in the Ilorin Metropolis and the relationship between the socio-economic activities of Igbo traders and the development that emerged in their environment. The result of the statistic revealed that the chi-square calculated value ( $X^2 = 115.8$ ) is greater than the critical value (7.815). Therefore, the null hypothesis ( $H_0$ ), which states that there is no significant relationship between the Spatio-temporal location of Igbo traders and their socio-economic activities, was rejected, and the alternative hypothesis ( $H_1$ ), which states that there is a significant relationship between the Spatio-temporal location of Igbo traders and their socio-economic activities was accepted. This implies a significant relationship between the Spatio-temporal location analysis of Igbo traders and their socio-economic activities. Similarly, Chi-Square was used to test the relationship between the socio-economic activities of Igbo traders and the development that emerged in their environment. The result revealed that the chi-square calculated value ( $X^2 = 88.91$ ) is greater than the critical value (5.991). Therefore, the null hypothesis was rejected, and the alternative hypothesis ( $H_1$ ), which states that there is a significant relationship between the socio-economic activities of Igbo traders and the development that emerged in their environment, was accepted. This implies a significant relationship between the socio-economic activities of Igbo traders and the development that occurred in their environment.

#### **Conclusion and Recommendation**

The study examines a Spatio-temporal analysis of Igbo traders and their socio-economic activities in the Ilorin Metropolis. The findings showed that most of the Igbo population engaged in trading activities in Ilorin were male and literate. The hypothesis's result

revealed a significant relationship between the Spatio-temporal location analysis of Igbo traders and their socio-economic activities. The study concludes that Igbo Entrepreneurial activities have contributed immensely to the economy of Ilorin Metropolis and have facilitated an improved standard of living for the people within the Metropolis. It is no doubt that Igbo entrepreneurs play vital roles in the growth of the

economy in Ilorin city. Therefore, based on the analysis and the findings, the study recommends that the State Government and Financial Institutions make credit facilities available and accessible to Igbo traders and reduce taxes to encourage entrepreneurial activities within the Metropolis.

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