



doi:10.5281/zenodo.14680173

# **Local Games and the Promotion of Socio-Economic Development and Unity in North Western Nigeria: A Study of *Sharo ,Dambe ,Kokawa, Doro and Langa***

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## **ABSTRACT**

The study will be of great benefit to student, research academician and the work will also takes a look at the local commitment among residents, regardless of economic or political conditions, that can serve as a valuable tool in shaping the effectiveness of development, based on culture and common identity. The research will also harness the role of local game in promoting unity, security, economy and strong hood of local cultures to the Sokoto State communities. And there nexus to sustainable development. Both primary and secondary data were used to come up with comprehensive research on this topic. The procedures will be treated under the following sub-headings: Research Design, Population of the study, Sample and Sampling Techniques, Instrument for Data Collection, Validation of the Instrument, Reliability of the Instrument, Procedure for data collection and analysis.

## **Keywords:**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Local cultural games play vital roles in providing sense of identity for the rural communities and residents. Local games are games that are local because they are base on the cultural practices of the people of the region. In north western Nigeria, such local or cultural games are many and they provide tremendous socio-economic impacts on the region. This identity facilitates common understandings, traditions, and values, all central to the identifications of plans of action to improve wellbeing of the rural communities particularly in North Western Nigeria.

Cultural games are authentic schools of social values and cultural learning (Ambretti, Palmbro & Elias, 2019). Cultural games are the games that are being played informally with minimum equipment and are played with rules that are not written. They are games usually played by both children and the aged people; the games are also passed from generation to generation informally by word of mouth. The main categories of cultural games are games of physical skills, games of strategies, games of chance, games of memory, rhythm games, simulation games and verbal games (Cheska, 1978). Example of cultural games found in North western Nigeria include, *Kokawa* (Traditional Wrestling), *Dambe* (Traditional Boxing), *Langa* ( Hopping game) and *Doro* (Kicking). Cultural games have been part and parcel of the traditional society. According to Cheska (1978), some of the characteristics of cultural games are:

i. the games are locally organised,

- ii. the games have few rules mostly not written,
- iii. the games use simple skills,
- iv. the games did not have specific boundaries,
- v. the games have few roles or positions for players.

In most societies, Cultural games form the backbone of a community or the society and further community spirit, bring and bind people together and instil a sense of pride. Most of these cultural games are expression of indigenous cultures and ways of life that contribute to the common identity of humanity, have already disappeared and those that have survived are threatened by imminent disappearance and extinction under the combined effect of globalization and harmonization of the rich diversity of world sport heritage. Playing these cultural games of *Sharo, Dambe, Kokawa, Langa* and *Doro* especially in the North western Nigerian societies help players and spectators to hear news, get information and keep abreast of local gossip, while talking about something around the game. Indeed, around the game, someone takes the opportunity to recall outstanding debts. If one player is the debtor, makes the excuse that they are playing at the moment and cannot speak, thus postponing the payment of the debt. In another development, these cultural games reduce stress because the players and the spectators crack jokes which take away boredom and fatigue. These cultural games also help to foster unity in the neighbourhoods. This is because the games allow both the players and the spectators to mingle together and crack jokes thus serving as an avenue to foster unity. At the venues of the game, matters of concern to an individual or the community may be brought up for discussion and appropriate solution is quickly found.

These cultural games however train individuals to be tolerant and forbear, because a leading competitor and the spectators could be taunting the impending loser judging from the flow of the game, the impending loser must have the courage to bear the jesting and refuse to lose composure. It encourages players to device means to solve problems. It affords the players the opportunity to think faster under any situation they may find themselves. The research will examine the local games cultural, economic and political contribution to the national development and explore how it influence the confidence of rural communities of North Western Nigeria having for coming together to address specific needs and problems.

### **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Local games or cultural games are and practice in many society , they help in enhancing socio-economic growth and virify segment of society that are divided .This role of local games tend to be hidden and largely ignored in government and policy makers in Nigeria . North western Nigeria, which is predominantly Hausa, Fulanis, and other tribes, have benefited from some of these local games silently. Therefore, the problem is how do we identify the impact of some these local games like *Dambe, Sharo,Langa,kokawa,and Doro* to the economic development and social cohesion ?. How can these impact be toward by government to reduce tribal conflicts in Nigeria? How can these hidden benefits of these local games documented for failure references ? These are some of the problem which this research seeks to address.

### **Review of Related Empirical Studies**

This sub-heading deals with the review of related empirical studies that are directly or indirectly relevant to the present study. The reviewed studies among others include those of Ambretti, Palmbro & Elias (2019). Traditional Games Body Movement carried out a study on the contributions of Community toward the development cultural games and the Stakeholders in CO-production of cultural games in Nigeria. The paper investigates the contributions of community stakeholders in the co-production of good cultural games in Nigeria.

The study is related to the present study as both of them concerned with the contributions of cultural games to the development of socio-economic developments which can be applicable to North western Nigeria.

Ayobami. (2015), The Living Culture; Indigenous game in Owo conducted analysis on the contribution cultural games on the indigenous people owo, that has relevant with this research on escalating the local cultural games and their relevance to the society .

**Hartman & Depro (2006)**. Rethinking Sports Based Community Crime Prevention Conducted a study on the Analysis of enormous important to this research sporting activities in our local communities which has Stakeholders' Views on the Quality of Education in Community Secondary Schools in Moshi Rural District.

**Jamieson & Wolter (1998)** Sports in the City. The work takes a look on the local sporting activities in Nigeria, the study explore the cultural sporting games and there relevance to the societies.

**Millie (2005)**. Anti-Social Behaviour Strategies: Finding a Balance. Investigated the social behaviours in Nigeria , this work has relevance to this undergoing research work.

**Maria Amparo Cruz-Saco (2008)** This work studied the promotion social integration in Nigeria and founds worthy in this research work. The study was conducted by using both qualitative and quantitative approaches. The study used interviews, questionnaires and documentary reviews as data collection instruments.

#### **1.4 Research Questions:**

- I.** What the impact of these local games to the economic development and social cohesion in the North western Nigeria?
- II.** How can these impact be used by government to reduce tribal conflicts in Nigeria
- III.** How can these benefits of these local games documented for failure references

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This section deals with the procedure to be used in carrying out the research. The procedures will be treated under the following sub-headings: Research Design, Population of the study, Sample and Sampling Techniques, Instrument for Data Collection, Validation of the Instrument, Reliability of the Instrument, Procedure for data collection and analysis.

#### **Research Design**

This study will employ descriptive survey research design. Descriptive survey design according to Nworgu, (2015) aims at studying a group of people or items by collecting and analyzing data from a sample of the same group or items considered to be representative of the entire population. This design is suitable for this study as the researchers are interested in the assessment of contribution of cultural games in the socio-economic development of North western Nigeria and its contributions in promoting the educational development in rural areas of these region of country.

#### **Population of the Study**

The population of the study is 894 across the 5 local games . This is distributed as follows Sharo (180), Dambe (179), Kokawa (178)Doro (174), and Langa (178). Also 466 traditional leaders will be interview in Sokoto(70), Zamfara (70), Kebbi(65), Katsina (70), Jigawa (51) Kano (70), and Kaduna(70). Similarly, politicians, religious leaders and players of these local games will be interacted with in the different state

#### **Sample and Sampling Techniques**

There are seven state in zone ie North –Western Nigeria namely, Sokoto, Kebbi, Zamfara, Katsina, Kano, Kaduna and Jigawa. The work intend to cover few state out of 7. This these states are Sokoto, (Sokoto north and south, TAMBUWAL, Illela and Tureta), Zamfara (Gusau, Talata mafara, Tsafe.), Kebbi (Argungu, Birnin kebbi, Gwandu, Jega, Yauri), Katsina ( Katsina, Daura, Funtuwa, ) .

#### **Research Instrument**

The researchers self-constructed questionnaire will be used for the study titled “Questionnaires on Assessing the Contributions of cultural games in North Western Nigeria. It will have a total of 25 items in clusters (A,B, C D and E) based on the five research questions formulated for the study. The questionnaires will be structured along four points rating scale of Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Strongly Disagree (SD) and Disagree (D).

**Validation of the Instrument**

The instrument will be validated by two expert from school of art and social sciences Shehu Shagari College of Education, Sokoto State.

**Reliability of the Instrument**

In order to ascertain the reliability of instruments, using six research assistants, 60 copies of the instrument will be tested in non-selected LGAs the internal consistency of the instrument will be established for the study using Cronbach Alpha. The extent is to determine whether the instrument is consistent in measuring what it is expected to measure in terms of its clarity and comprehensiveness.

**Method of Data Collection**

For the purpose of data collection, the 466 questionnaire will be administered by researchers with the assistant of six research assistants to be employed for the study.

**Method of Data Analysis**

The data collected will be analysed using descriptive statistics that is using mean and standard deviation.

**PRESENTATION OF RESULTS**

Table 1: Impact of local cultural games to the Economic developments and social cohesion in the North western Nigeria .

N= (378)

S/N	Item Statement	Agree		Disagree		Remark
		Freq.	%	Freq.	%	
1	Local cultural games provide Economic development in this State.	310	82	68	18	
2	Local cultural games provide job opportunity for the Economic development in this State.	290	77	88	23	
3	Local cultural games promote cultural developments in this state.	340	90	38	10	
4	Local cultural games enhance unity among the ethnic groups in this state.	316	84	63	16	
5	Local cultural games promote Cohesion in the diversity of cultures in this state.	285	75	93	25	

Source: Field Work

Key: A= Agree; D=Disagree;

N= (378)

Table 1 shows the extent to which the Impact of Local cultural games to the Economic developments and social cohesion in the North western Nigeria. Specifically,310 of respondents representing 82% local cultural games provide Economic development in this State.

largely agreed that local cultural games provide Economic development in this State and that 290 of the respondents representing 77% of the respondents agreed that Local cultural games provide job opportunity for the Economic development in this State, while 340 representing 90% of the respondents consented that local cultural games promote cultural developments in this state. Similarly, 316 and 285 respondents representing 84%, and 75%% of the respondents alluded to the fact that local cultural games enhance unity among the ethnic groups in this state and promote Cohesion in the diversity of cultures in this state.

**Research Question 2:** *How can these impact be used by government to reduce tribal conflicts in Nigeria?*  
 The answer to this research question was obtain from items 6-12 of Local cultural games Questionnaire (LCGQ) and present in Table 2.

Table 2: How can these impact be used by government to reduce tribal conflicts in Nigeria  
 N= (378)

S/N	Item Statement	Agree		Disagree		Remark
		Freq.	%	Freq.	%	
1	Local cultural games prevents tribal conflicts	320	85	58	15	
2	It provide solution to misunderstanding among tribes.	311	82	62	16	
3	Local cultural games can serve to government as an instrument to peace developments among the different tribes.	278	74	100	26	
4	Local cultural games can restricts tribal conflicts.	311	82	62	16	
5	Government prevents communal conflicts through organizing local games.	320	85	58	15	
6	Government in active on Local cultural games can resulted to ethnicity and misunderstanding.	300	79	78	20	
7	Government intervention to local cultural game can improve the standard of cultural games the state .	280	74	98	26	

Source: Field Work

Key: A= Agree; D=Disagree;

N= (378)

Table 2 shows the extent to which impact be use by government to reduce tribal conflicts in Nigeria. .specifically, 320 of the respondents representing85% largely agreed that Local cultural games prevents tribal conflicts , 311 and 278 respondents representing 82% and 74% agreed that It provide solution to misunderstanding among tribes. While 320, and 300 respondents representing 85 %and 79% agreed that Local cultural games can save to government as an instrument to peace developments among the different tribes. Similarly, 280 of the respondents representing 74% agreed that Government intervention to local cultural game can improve the standard of cultural games the state.

**Research Question 3:** *How can these benefits of these local games documented for failure references?*

The answer to this research question was obtained from items 13-18 of 12 of Local cultural games Questionnaire (LCGQ) and presented in table 3.

Table 3: How can these benefits of these local games documented for failure references

N= (378)

	Item Statement	Agree		Disagree		Remark
		Freq.	%	Freq.	%	
1	Local cultural games relevant to pupils curriculum	271	72	107	28	
2	Studying local cultural games can help pupils to understand their cultures.	295	78	83	22	
3	Teaching local cultural game can facilitate cultural understanding.	302	80	76	20	
4	Documenting local cultural games can save as reference to preserve our cultural heritage.	315	83	63	16	
5	Organizing intellectual conference can boost academic progress to cultural games in the states.	270	71	108	29	
6	Publish books on local cultural games can save as reference.	299	79	79	21	

Source: Field Work

Key: A= Agree; D=Disagree;

N= (378)

Table indicates the extent to the benefits of these local games documented for failure references. Specifically, 271 of the respondents representing 72% largely agreed that Local cultural games relevant to pupils curriculum while 295 of the respondents representing 78% agreed that Studying local cultural games can help pupils to understand their cultures.

302 and 315 respondents representing 80% and 83% agreed that teaching local cultural game can facilitate cultural understanding, it also Documenting local cultural games can save as reference to preserve our cultural heritage respectively. Similarly, 270 and 299 representing %, 71% and 79% of the respondents alluded Organizing intellectual conference can boost academic progress to cultural games in the states. Publish books on local cultural games can save as reference respectively.

## **CONCLUSION**

Traditional games are the games that are being played informally with minimum equipment and are played without reference to written rules. They are games usually played by both children and the aged people; the games are also passed from generation to generation. North western Nigeria is a multi-ethnic country of about 180 million in population. The region with diverse cultures and values is blessed with many traditional games and sports that have been played all over the years even before the advent of colonialism and western education. The traditional games and sports are basically played for leisure and recreational activities. The potential of traditional games and sports to contribute to social integration and social control cannot be under-estimated

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

This research work was sponsored through the Institution Based Research (IBR) to Shehu Shagari College of Education, Sokoto with reference number: TETF/DR&D/COE/SOKOTO/IBR/2024/VOL 1 BATCH 10: S/N0 5

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The following recommendations are made in order to encourage social integration and social cohesion in the society through traditional games:

Government should promote traditional games in communities through various sponsorship programmes to encourage wide participation among members of the community.

Communities should encourage members to invest in traditional games so as to make the games more attractive.

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