

Appraisal Study of “Town Days” As a Strategy for Public Participation in Community Development

Lekan Sanni^{1*}, Samson A. Adeyinka² and A.O. Ajala¹

1. Department of Geography, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria

2. Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria

**E-mail: lysanni@yahoo.com*

KEYWORDS Development; community development; public participation; town days

ABSTRACT Since late 1970s, the use of “town days” or “community days” as rallying point for public participation in community development has become very rampant in South Western Nigeria. This study provides an empirical study of the extent to which this approach has been successful as a tool for community development in Ile-Ife, Osun State, Nigeria. The approach of the study is identifying the goals of the organizers of the “town days” identifying strategies mapped out to achieve the goals; reviewing the extent to which the goals have been accomplished; and identifying possible constraints to this approach. The study reveals huge success in the goals of emancipating people for development and of beautifying the city: a multi-million Naira City Hall has been built, modern park provided in front of the palace etc. The goal of generating industries and industrial employment opportunities are yet to be realized. Recommendations are provided to enhance the goal of utilizing “town days” for community development in the city.