**EDUCATION: A COMPASS TO MEASURABLE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA**

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**Abstract**

This study interrogates the link between education and measurable social development in Africa, with emphasis on Nigeria. Several scholars and global organizations have agreed that education is sacrosanct in the quest for development. Despite the scholarly recommendations and advocacies in favour of education, however, there still appears to be low level of education in some areas in Nigeria, which would naturally impede the level of development. This study, therefore, adopts a quantitative approach to investigate the quality of education in Ado Odo Ota Local Government Area of Ogun State, Nigeria. Using the Human Development Index which is validated by the evaluation, in terms of number and quality of teachers; infrastructure and remuneration issues, of selected schools out of all the schools in this LGA: 500 primary schools (385 private and 115 public), and 134 secondary schools (85 private and 49 public), findings show that quality education provides access to qualitative life, employability, information, and social mobility, among others, and that Nigeria’s level of underdevelopment cannot be divorced from her high level of illiteracy. The study concludes that education plays a critical role in the development of any society. Recommendations on the way forward are made in line with these findings.

Keywords: Education, quality of life, social development, Nigeria, illiteracy, Ado Odo/Ota.