

## **Dying Commitment of Healthcare Services in Okun-Yorubaland: A Historical Assessment**

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### **Abstract**

This study investigated the dying commitment of the Okun-Yoruba communities towards the provision of healthcare services. The period between 1950s and 1980s was a revolutionary year for the progressive unions of the Okun-Yoruba communities. The Okun-Yoruba educated elite returned after their studies outside their communities to be dissatisfied and disillusioned with the general condition of healthcare services and schools in their home communities. They therefore mobilised their communities for the provision of healthcare centres. This study therefore, uses historical tools of analysis to survey the strategies adopted by the Okun-Yoruba elites through the formation of Progressive Unions. It highlighted the early prospects and challenges encountered and more importantly, the taking over process of these maternities and hospitals by the Kwara State Government as part of its social responsibilities to the development of Local Government Areas. The study concluded that the taking over of the communities' health centres flourished before the military government took over the government in 1983 through a coup d'état. In addition, the lost spirit of communal welfarism, was part of the erroneous beliefs inculcated into Okun-Yoruba people that community social development was the responsibility of the government, which over time deadened the provision of healthcare services in Okun-Yorubaland.

**Keywords:** Okun-Yoruba, Communities, Missions, Healthcare, Hospitals