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Title: The economic relevance of indigenous transitional rites in contemporary society of Southeastern Nigeria.

Transitional rites are socio-cultural performances that mark individual movement from one stage of life to another. In every environment (native or contemporary), activities marking these rites are extracted from the core values and etiquette of the society involved. Apparently, skill acquisition and creative development programmes usually foreground entire transitional events. This set of knowledge generated locally is fashioned towards meeting socio-economic needs, also making for a sustained cultural values of the environment. These skills and knowledges are systematically transmitted to the individuals (initiates) orally or through practical engagement at the liminal phase, so that new knowledge will emerge. These lifestyles, absolutely founded on native knowledge, are unique and influential. This study explores varying cultural values and skills embedded in adulthood transitional rites experienced in Southeastern Nigeria, dominated by the Igbo group. Adopting a survey research design, the study analyses a range of creative engagements like body decoration, weaving and cooking, among others, which drive entrepreneurial readiness to combat the apparent economic challenges of the time. Following the analysis, we argue for continuity of such rites, albeit in a modernized fashion, in the contemporary Igbo society to avert the danger associated with abandonment of certain essential indigenous values.

Key words: transitional rites, indigenous knowledge, entrepreneurial skill, liminality and sustainable goal