

**THE PLACE OF WOMEN IN (NATIONAL) DEVELOPMENT
BEING A PAPER PRESENTED BY**

**DR. H.E. YUSUF
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
KADUNA STATE UNIVERSITY**

**AT A ONE DAY SEMINAR ON:
WOMEN, DEVELOPMENT AND SECURITY
ORGANISED BY WOMEN'S INTERFAITH COUNCIL (WIC)
AT THE CATHOLIC SOCIAL CENTER, KADUNA
ON JUNE 5TH, 2014**

INTRODUCTION

Since the dawn of history, the female gender the world over, has been subjected to different forms of discriminatory tendencies. They vary according to age, social status and the dominant prevailing ideology in the society at a given epoch. Each era, and each system saw a gradual but systematic institutionalization and entrenchment of a second class status for the female gender. Gender issues are one of the current programs that have attracted the attention of international bodies through conferences, seminars and workshops.

WOMEN AND EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ACTIVITIES

Women in most societies lag behind in both access to training and application of technology. This has been attributed to lack of encouragement from the society generally and men in particular. An outcome of the entrenched and institutionalized patriarchal structure that exists in most societies is the attendant consequence is pervasive gender role and attitude. Girls are far less likely than boys to study engineering or computer or physical sciences.

Even in OECD countries women receive only 30 percent of degrees in science and technology. The percentage of female graduates advancing to research is even smaller less than 30 percent of science and technology

researchers in most OECD countries and only 12 percent in countries such as Japan and Republic of Korea.

Large majority of women are in secretarial, word processing or data entry positions, requiring rather routine, low level skills or limited technical training. Meanwhile, education and men to apply new techniques and this enhances their employability, productivity and competitiveness of enterprises.

LABOUR FORCE

Women earn less than men for work of equal value. They have fewer opportunities in obtaining better paid jobs and often bear the unequal burden of family responsibilities. This is in spite of the International Labour Organization (Employment and Occupation) Convention of 1958 which has been reaffirmed many decades after in the form of Declaration of the ILO commitment to the elimination of discrimination in the world of work was reaffirmed in the Declaration of Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work 1998 the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization 2008 also confirms that gender equality and non-discrimination are cross-cutting issues in all the ILO's work.

HEALTH STATUS OF WOMEN

Women in developing countries face daunting health challenges. When they fall ill, they are more vulnerable than men since they predominantly work in

the informal economy without social protection. They earn less than men on the average and have little ownership of or control over assets, women are more likely to care for children and less likely to have access to health insurance and pension coverage. It must be emphasized that common illness can quickly deplete the assets of the family especially those living in rural and remote areas.

Health care systems are urban based, elite biased and curative oriented access as limited and cost prohibitive for low come families and risk protection mechanisms such as insurance are not yet available. Women's health is at risk due to the unhealthy environment; long working housing hazardous conditions and lack of income to vest in prevention 70% of the world's poor are female.

LONGEVITY OF WOMEN

Women live longer than the men and they form majority of older persons (55%), currently women outnumber men by about 70 million among those aged 60 years or over. In the last 50 years global life expectancy of women has increased from 48 to 67 years as compared to 45 to 63 years for men. Since life expectancy for women is higher than for men, women may be in poverty for a longer period of their lives. A Woman's chance of losing her partner is higher and women are less likely to than men. Women over 60 who have lost their partners greatly outnumber their male equivalents through their life cycles; women

accumulate disadvantages that pile up at older ages. Double or triple discrimination is often simplified as women advance in age. They are high in number in unpaid, low paid, part time, frequently interrupted or informal economic work, as a result they are less often entitled to any contributory pension benefits in their own rights even if they get their person's they are often significantly lower than those of men due to lower earning and shorter contribution persons