

# [Backgrouund various offices. however, in nigeria the](https://assignbuster.com/backgrouund-various-offices-however-in-nigeria-the/)

BACKGROUUND AND CONTEXTWOMEN POLITICSAlthough section 40 sub section 42 of the Nigerianconstitution provides a platform for men and women equal opportunity todemocratic governance, giving prohibitions to any means of discrimination, facts on ground do not give credits to this standing. Dating back to 2007general Nigeria’s election, only 6% of elected political office where womenbringing the ranking of the country compared to the other west Africancountries very low, being that the sub-regional average is put at 12% which practicallyis a far cry from the 30% recommended in Beijing in 1995. Despite the fact thatwomen constitute about half the population size of the country and have playedvery key roles in the past their participation in formal and informalstructures and processes where decision regarding the use of societal resourcesgenerated by both men and women remains insignificant (Makama, June 2013). The gleaming issue still is that why are this set bacs still a part of thepolitical system?   Over thecenturies feminist has being stereotyped as dependent, submissive, andconforming making women lack leadership qualities raising the bias of men toportray leadership as command or control instead of a process of mobilizing andengaging humans which can bring a new platform for women leadership (Burns, 1978). The potentials of women to be a part of theadministrative strategic decision makers are high and are sure to bringpositive impact to the system of democratic governance. As in the past from thebirth of the office of the first lady in 17 by the wife of the then Head ofstate Babangida till date we have seen several women with great political ambitions women like NgoziOkono Iwela (finance minister), Dora Akunyili (drugs enforcement agency) etc. have all shown positive intents and worked significantly in their variousoffices.

However, in Nigeria the extant National gender policy (NGP)recommended 35% affirmative action instead and sort for more inclusiverepresentation of women with at least 35% of both elective and political andappointive public service positions respectively (oluyemi, 2016). Sources have witnessed that the low response of women in the Nigerian politicalsystem started from the period of pre-colonial masters giving rise to the patriarchalsystem which in the long run have made it seem like men are always meant to beat the forefront and women their subordinates.   The purposeof this research will be solely to look into the hindrances women encounterwith regard to engaging in political run for offices. By looking at variouspolitical parties using various research procedure like conducting keyinformant interviews, distribution of questionnaires to see if truly democracyis practiced faithfully.      REARCH QUESTION & HYPOTHESISThis research will be involved in four researchquestions followed by the hypothesis.

1.     WHY IS IT DIFFICULT FOR WOMEN TOENGAGE IN POLITICS AS ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS? The null hypothesis in this casewould be that they are not given enough support from this political parties toengage as active as their male counterparts which entail leads to a pullback ordiscourages their efforts. 2.     IT THE PRACTICE OF DEMOCRACY TRULY APARTHNERSHIP OF EQUAL OPPURTUNITY BETWEEN WOMEN AND MEN? The null hypothesis in this casecould be that since the pre- colonial era the issue of patriarchy has deeplyeaten into the political system to an extent to which we as men no longer seewomen as equal but as subordinates. My expectation here will be to see that asubstantial percentage of patriarchy still very much exist or practiced. 3.     WHAT OPPURTUNITY DO WOMEN HAVE ASTHEY GROW IN THEIR POLIYICAL CAREER IN THIS PARTIES? The null hypothesis in this casewould be that despite the claims of gender equality, due to the presence of” internal democracy” still amongst the party members and officials we see thatwomen are still sidelines I expect to see that most of their career growth iscut short due to such reasons. 4.

WHAT ARE THE STRATEGIES THAT WOMENNEED TO IMBIBE OF GET ACCUSTOMED TO IN ORTHER REACH A LEVEL PLAYING GROUND WITHTHEIR MALE COUNTERPARTS TO ATTAIN SUCH KEY POSITIONS? The null hypothesis here would bethat a grassroot reformation strategy from the family schools and culture tobreak the barrier which are nurtured from very young age i. e encouragingchildren despite their gender to see themselves as people of same relevance tothe society at large bearing in mind being able to give equal support at anypoint in time. In addition to this research /studywe will also be considering the following issues and questions:·       As women in various political parties willbe approached to fill up questionnaires, personally the researcher would wantto know or put into account if leadership education was something which wasbeing taught to them and if not, how did they find a way to break through this” GLASS CELLING”.·       Also, the study will like to know whattheir male counterparts feel about the issue of women putting out that they donot get enough support as them and their advice to women? LITERATURE REVIEWover the past years therehas been a serious deliberation on the issue regarding women leadership howeverfrom colonialism came the point of women’s autonomy and traditional positions. The British most times found women autonomous, they instituted a “ Victorianframework” which circumscribed making them loose autonomist nature giving birthto patriarchal system, for example looking at the northern part of Nigeriacolonialism encouraged expansion of Islamic ideals making them exclude womenfrom politics and other public affairs (Awomolo, 1997) (sue Ellen Charlton, 1989). This patriarchal system which has eaten up virtually into every practices, systems and sectors in Nigeria bringing up a structure of gender inequality andmany other negative effect on the economical and socio-cultural values of thecountry. On the surface it looks like gender has no significant role and thatthe country is presumably gender neutral, and potential women are equal totheir competitors; however, this remains an untapped dream of liberal pluralist (sue Ellen Charlton, 1989)cited in (Awomolo, 1997).

Women’s engagement inpolitics in Nigeria is essential as it is a known fact that no country can makea fast growth when one half of the country’s population are under- represented, undermined economically and potentially weak, while the other half iseconomically dominant and politically powerful. That which is been said is thatwomen lack the competence and the right amount of sophistication to holdthemselves against their male opponents and have failed to key into the majoragendas of the country. Looking from the side of this political parties, theydo have manifestos from their constitution stating that both men and women haveequal and full support from the party, manifestos of some of this parties alsoaffirm in favor of men example: APC (all progressive party) one of the majorpolitical parties in Nigeria, section 16.   Increasing representation in population andeconomic positions has been recognized as a developmental goal giving big upsto the Beijing platform for recommendation of the 30% target for women inNational parliament which was implemented and should have had positive impactif was fully implemented (Amadi, 2007).   From the table below, it is clear that allparts of the world, women have been historically discriminated againstelectoral issues. the good news is that marginalization can be addressedthrough concerted efforts. Thus, some countries now have female heads of statesuch as Germany and Liberia (Igbuzor, 2011)Table: DEMOCRATIZATION OFSUFFRAGE IN SELECTED COUNTRIES COUNTRY MALE UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE FEMALE UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE AUSTRALIA 1903 1908 CANADA 1915/18 1920 GREAT BRITHIAN 1877 1928 SWEDEN 1923 1921 PORTUGAL 1911 1974 JAPAN 1918/19 1947 NIGERIA 1922 1979 FRANCE 1869/71 1946 ITALY 1925 1940  SOURCE: OTIVE IGUZO R, REDEFINING WINNING: WOMENS EMERGENCE IN POLITICAL LEADERSHIP POSITIONS.   Seeing the issue of marginalization in thepast and how efforts have been made to eliminate it the percentage rate ofchange has not been really significant from a statistical point ofview/perspective.

Affirmative actions have been taken toremove continuous setbacks / obstacles to political progress which will entailreduce historical imbalance. Also, several empowerment forums and massmobilization campaigns have been initiated to break tradition and stereotypesof women’s role. In spite of several of some of this strategies that have beeninitiated to which Nigeria is a signatory, they are still flashing issues ofgender inequality at all levels of decision making (oluyemi, 2016).                SIGNIFICANCEOF THIS STUDYThe result of this study will be reverberated to thebenefit of Nigeria at large and the political parties, being that women play avital role in the society and considering the fact that they do constituteabout half the population of the country. Grassroot education for kinds ofdifferent genders to see themselves as equal to fit into any position of theirchoice, here breaking the barrier of cultural / family effect.

Furthermore, thiswill also erase the issues of internal democracy within each political partyhence forth suppressing the issue of women working /striving 10 times more torun on equal level playing ground as their male counterparts.   Its going tobe very much beneficial to the aspiring youths who want to get involved inpolitics when women who have acquired some previous positions in the governmentinitiate some mentoring programs which will prepare them for all obstacleskeeping them competent, sophisticated and most importantly motivated enoughkeying them into the major agendas of the country for attracting more femaleand male supporters. For the researcher, this study will help him/herunderstand the areas which are lacking in the aspect of women politics inNigeria, as he/she is aspiring to venture into politics someday, and seeing intosome missing issues concerning this topic. Thus, some time later in future newtheories on how this issue will be solved may be uncovered (Regoniel, 2015)        METHODSRESEARCHMETHODS, DESIGN AND METHODSFirst of all, all political potential parties andempowerment groups will be identified (Aydinel, 2015).

This research will involve the two (2) major partiesin Nigeria and for the empowerment groups a random selection will be doneselecting just two (2) groups giving them all an equal opportunity to beselected. In this study the resarcher will be using across-sectional design to survey the various political parties and empowermentgroups. This will be done at a period near to the general election of thecountry when all parties are active to make sure that the sample size isequally distributed, and all members available. Five (5) women and five (5) menare selected from both political parties making a total of ten (10) persons perpolitical party.

The research will be more exploratory being that we need toget detailed information/ data and feedbacks form our samples. Also from thesample a key informant interview will be scheduled and conducted for somespecific persons from various sample size. The interview will be asemi-structured interview, with more open-ended questions so as to get detailedrequired information from interviewee. A self-administered questionnaire willbe distributed randomly to ten (10) women for the various empowerment groups. The questions will be slightly open-ended also in other for sample size to sayhow the truly feel about this issue. From the party sample size, a casenarrative will be carried out with several successful women who have been ableto break major boundaries they have faced and whose story can illuminate howprospects will navigate through political, public and personal hindrances andadopt best practices that can promote gender stability and equality.

REARCH ETHICSThe researcher has to ensure that he/she getsappropriate consent signed from respondent as a surety of their understanding andacceptance to be involved in this study ensuring that he/she is not beingforced but get involved at their own free will. Also, required approval fromthe sample area (political parties) is relevant to ensure that they are no mixup or denials given on attempt to conduct exercise/study. Questionnaires whichare distributed to sample will be shared or given to those who are willing andfeel they want to be part of the study. Lastly it is imperative that theevaluation process does not in any way harm (unintended or otherwise)participants.          REFERENCE LIST (n. d.

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