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BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT WOMEN POLITICS Although section 40 sub section 42 of the Nigerian constitution provides a platform for men and women equal opportunity to democratic governance, giving prohibitions to any means of discrimination, facts on ground do not give credits to this standing. Dating back to 2007 general Nigeria's election, only 6% of elected political office where women bringing the ranking of the country compared to the other west African countries very low, being that the sub-regional average is put at 12% which practically is a far cry from the 30% recommended in Beijing in 1995. Despite the fact that women constitute about half the population size of the country and have played very key roles in the past their participation in formal and informal structures and processes where decision regarding the use of societal resources generated by both men and women remains insignificant (Makama, June 2013). The gleaming issue still is that why are this set backs still a part of the political system? Over the centuries feminist has being stereotyped as dependent, submissive, and conforming making women lack leadership qualities raising the bias of men to portray leadership as command or control instead of a process of mobilizing and engaging humans which can bring a new platform for women leadership (Burns, 1978). The potentials of women to be a part of the administrative strategic decision makers are high and are sure to bring positive impact to the system of democratic governance. As in the past from the birth of the office of the first lady in 1979 by the wife of the then Head of state Babangida till date we have seen several women with great political ambitions women like Ngozi Okonjo Iwela (finance minister), Dora Akunyili (drugs enforcement agency) etc. have all shown positive intents and worked significantly in their various offices.

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However, in Nigeria the extant National gender policy (NGP) recommended 35% affirmative action instead and sort for more inclusive representation of women with at least 35% of both elective and political and appointive public service positions respectively (Oluyemi, 2016). Sources have witnessed that the low response of women in the Nigerian political system started from the period of pre-colonial masters giving rise to the patriarchal system which in the long run have made it seem like men are always meant to beat the forefront and women their subordinates. The purpose of this research will be solely to look into the hindrances women encounter with regard to engaging in political run for offices. By looking at various political parties using various research procedure like conducting key informant interviews, distribution of questionnaires to see if truly democracy is practiced faithfully.

RESEARCH QUESTION & HYPOTHESIS This research will be involved in four research questions followed by the hypothesis.

1. **WHY IS IT DIFFICULT FOR WOMEN TO ENGAGE IN POLITICS AS ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS?** The null hypothesis in this case would be that they are not given enough support from this political parties to engage as active as their male counterparts which entail leads to a pullback or discourages their efforts.
2. **IS THE PRACTICE OF DEMOCRACY TRULY A PARTNERSHIP OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY BETWEEN WOMEN AND MEN?** The null hypothesis in this case could be that since the pre-colonial era the issue of patriarchy has deeply eaten into the political system to an extent to which we as men no longer see women as equal but as subordinates. My expectation here will be to see that a substantial percentage of patriarchy still very much exist or practiced.
3. **WHAT OPPORTUNITY DO WOMEN HAVE AS THEY GROW IN**

THEIR POLITICAL CAREER IN THESE PARTIES? The null hypothesis in this case would be that despite the claims of gender equality, due to the presence of "internal democracy" still amongst the party members and officials we see that women are still sidelined. I expect to see that most of their career growth is cut short due to such reasons. 4.

WHAT ARE THE STRATEGIES THAT WOMEN NEED TO IMBIBE OF GET ACCUSTOMED TO IN ORDER TO REACH A LEVEL PLAYING GROUND WITH THEIR MALE COUNTERPARTS TO ATTAIN SUCH KEY POSITIONS? The null hypothesis here would be that a grassroots reformation strategy from the family schools and culture to break the barrier which are nurtured from very young age i. e. encouraging children despite their gender to see themselves as people of same relevance to the society at large bearing in mind being able to give equal support at any point in time. In addition to this research / study we will also be considering the following issues and questions: As women in various political parties will be approached to fill up questionnaires, personally the researcher would want to know or put into account if leadership education was something which was being 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 what their male counterparts feel about the issue of women putting out that they do not get enough support as them and their advice to women? LITERATURE REVIEW Over the past years there has been a serious deliberation on the issue regarding women leadership however from colonialism came the point of women's autonomy and traditional positions. The British most times found women autonomous, they instituted a "Victorian framework" which circumscribed

making them loose autonomist nature giving birth to patriarchal system, for example looking at the northern part of Nigeria colonialism encouraged expansion of Islamic ideals making them exclude women from politics and other public affairs (Awomolo, 1997) (see 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 and many other negative effect on the economical and socio-cultural values of the country. On the surface it looks like gender has no significant role and that the country is presumably gender neutral, and potential women are equal to their competitors; however, this remains an untapped dream of liberal pluralist (see Ellen Charlton, 1989) cited in (Awomolo, 1997).

Women's engagement in politics in Nigeria is essential as it is a known fact that no country can make a fast growth when one half of the country's population are under-represented, undermined economically and potentially weak, while the other half is economically dominant and politically powerful. That which is been said is that women lack the competence and the right amount of sophistication to hold themselves against their male opponents and have failed to key into the major agendas of the country. Looking from the side of this political parties, they do have manifestos from their constitution stating that both men and women have equal and full support from the party, manifestos of some of this parties also affirm in favor of men example: APC (all progressive party) one of the major political parties in Nigeria, section 16. Increasing representation in population and economic positions has been recognized as a developmental goal giving big up to the Beijing platform for recommendation of the 30% target for women in National

parliament which was implemented and should have had positive impact if was fully implemented (Amadi, 2007). From the table below, it is clear that all parts of the world, women have been historically discriminated against electoral issues. The good news is that marginalization can be addressed through concerted efforts. Thus, some countries now have female heads of state such as Germany and Liberia (Igbuzor, 2011) Table:

COUNTRY	MALE UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE	FEMALE UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE
AUSTRALIA	1903	1908
CANADA	1915/18	1920
GREAT BRITAIN	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 the past and how efforts have been made to eliminate it the percentage rate of change has not been really significant from a statistical point of view/perspective.

Affirmative actions have been taken to remove continuous setbacks / obstacles to political progress which will entail reduce historical imbalance. Also, several empowerment forums and mass mobilization campaigns have been initiated to break tradition and stereotypes of women's role. In spite of several of some of these strategies that have been initiated to which Nigeria is a signatory, they are still flashing issues of gender inequality at all levels of decision making (Oluyemi, 2016).

SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS STUDY
The result of this study will be reverberated to the benefit of Nigeria at large and the political parties, being that women play a vital role in the society and considering the fact that they do constitute about half the population of the

country. Grassroot education for kinds of different genders to see themselves as equal to fit into any position of their choice, here breaking the barrier of cultural / family effect.

Furthermore, this will also erase the issues of internal democracy within each political party henceforth suppressing the issue of women working /striving 10 times more to run on equal level playing ground as their male counterparts. It's going to be very much beneficial to the aspiring youths who want to get involved in politics when women who have acquired some previous positions in the government initiate some mentoring programs which will prepare them for all obstacles keeping them competent, sophisticated and most importantly motivated enough keying them into the major agendas of the country for attracting more female and male supporters. For the researcher, this study will help him/her understand the areas which are lacking in the aspect of women politics in Nigeria, as he/she is aspiring to venture into politics someday, and seeing into some missing issues concerning this topic. Thus, some time later in future new theories on how this issue will be solved may be uncovered (Regoniel, 2015) METHODS RESEARCH METHODS, DESIGN AND METHODS First of all, all political potential parties and empowerment groups will be identified (Aydinel, 2015).

This research will involve the two (2) major parties in Nigeria and for the empowerment groups a random selection will be done selecting just two (2) groups giving them all an equal opportunity to be selected. In this study the researcher will be using cross-sectional design to survey the various political parties and empowerment groups. This will be done at a period near to the <https://assignbuster.com/background-various-offices-however-in-nigeria-the/>

general election of the country when all parties are active to make sure that the sample size is equally distributed, and all members available. Five (5) women and five (5) men are selected from both political parties making a total of ten (10) persons per political party.

The research will be more exploratory being that we need to get detailed information/ data and feedbacks from our samples. Also from the sample a key informant interview will be scheduled and conducted for some specific persons from various sample size. The interview will be a semi-structured interview, with more open-ended questions so as to get detailed required information from interviewee. A self-administered questionnaire will be 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 say how they truly feel about this issue. From the party sample size, a case narrative will be carried out with several successful women who have been able to break major boundaries they have faced and whose story can illuminate how prospects will navigate through political, public and personal hindrances and adopt best practices that can promote gender stability and equality.

RESEARCH ETHICS The researcher has to ensure that he/she gets appropriate consent signed from respondent as a surety of their understanding and acceptance to be involved in this study ensuring that he/she is not being forced but get involved at their own free will. Also, required approval from the sample area (political parties) is relevant to ensure that they are no mixup or denials given on attempt to conduct exercise/study. Questionnaires which are distributed to sample will be shared or given to those who are <https://assignbuster.com/background-various-offices-however-in-nigeria-the/>

willing and feel they want to be part of the study. Lastly it is imperative that the evaluation process does not in any way harm (unintended or otherwise) participants. REFERENCE LIST (n. d.

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