An Advocacy Brochure

Gender in Nigeria 2020

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Still Many Cloudy Days ahead for Women and Girls in Nigeria
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PREAMBLE
We have prepared this report to provide gender perspectives to Development in the past six years and to support various equality and gender-based advocacies in Nigeria and beyond with measured data and objective information for their work. As such, this document highlights prominent development concerns bordering on Sustainable Development Goals 5 and 8 in Nigeria. Furthermore, it serves as a subject specific trend analysis on gender, comparing data from the 2013 Gender in Nigeria Report with the most recent data on gender extracted from the larger compendium, *Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS) of 2018*, both published by the National Population Commission (NPC).

This document contains updates on key health and welfare issues such as socio-economic emancipation of women, knowledge and access to key health information such as family planning methods and child feeding practices, among other issues germane to the country’s public health policy. It measures attitudes regarding HIV/AIDS and provides an update on sexual and gender based violence across the country, among other salient gender matters.

We hope that the information supplied in this document will aid policy makers and development practitioners in articulating current gender concerns and shaping policy execution paths, employing data-driven assessments of the various subthemes within the gender equality conversation.

We appreciate the funding support of the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA) for the production of this report. We also thank the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) for their technical support, especially Ms Lola Talabi-Oni and the Office of the Statistician-General Dr Kale.
This report relied primarily on data provided in the Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey of 2018. The 2018 NDHS is the sixth and latest Demographic and Health Survey conducted in Nigeria. We also used relevant components of information from the 2018 Statistics Report on Women and Men in Nigeria and the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2016-17 (MICS5), both published by the National Bureau of Statistics. Analysis, findings and submissions made in this report stem from a comparative analysis of gender and equality-related figures in 2013 and 2018 for Nigeria from these sources.
INTRODUCTION
This report reviews development outcomes relating to women and girls in Nigeria, experiences defined typically by recurrent inadequacy in their access to critical health services, basic education, and economic empowerment opportunities. This is besides the wider front of sociocultural injustices that women and girls face. While infrastructural deficits and welfare inadequacies are apparent in various strata of life in Nigeria, findings show these shortages are more acute among women and girls.

Analysis of official data shows that many Nigerian citizens cannot own assets or inheritance because they are female. It also reveals that many women do not have a say on the number of pregnancies they can or want to carry, that the choice on frequency of their pregnancies and use of contraceptives is still at the sole discretion of the male partner.

Furthermore, we observed an upsurge in the number of sexual and gender based violence. Survey responses show that while there are institutions established to give aid to victims, stigma around victims of sexual and domestic violence make them reluctant to report these incidences or seek justice in courts.

Findings from the analyses in this report show that a typical woman and girl child in Nigeria still lacks equal opportunities for personal development as men and boys do. This discrimination incapacitates the girl child and indeed every female from competing for scarce opportunities under the already austere societal conditions. This comes with grave impact on their health, welfare and capacity for self-help. Hindering women’s access to more rewarding vocations, overtly or subtly does not only limit human resource potential but discounts overall economic growth and national development.
OVERVIEW: WOMEN IN NIGERIA
Nigeria’s employment and education statistics reveal gaps between the male and female genders, with females mostly at a disadvantage. For instance, 35% of women aged 15-49 have no form of education, as against 22% of the men. Similarly, most employed women earn less than their husbands do. Within the age category of 15-48, 65% of women have jobs as against 86% of men.

Typically, Nigerian women marry at a younger age than men do. We noted an average of 19 years for women as against 28 years for men. Further, estimates of married people return 70% for women as against 57% for men. Constraints on the level of education a girl child attains creates an artificial ceiling on a woman’s social enlightenment and economic advancement.

Regarding sexual activities, men practice high-risk sex than women. Men in Nigeria have more sexual partners in a lifetime than women (average of 4 against 2). According to the 2018 national survey, 13% of men have had over two sex partners compared to 1% of the women within the same period.

We also noted a trend of male dominance regarding household decision-making. Almost two-third (66%) of women married do not take part in decisions regarding their own health and major household purchases. The man also has the say on family visitations.

Concerning HIV/AIDS transmission and prevention, men and women in Nigeria possess almost equal knowledge (45% and 46% respectively). Yet, among youths, 3 in 5 women have this knowledge compared to 2 in 5 for males.

As for violence, 31% of women were physically abused, and 9% reported sexual assault. Of this number, 6% of them experienced violence during pregnancy. About 4 in 10 women suffer violence from at the hands of their spouses. Correspondingly, 4 in 10 men believe “wife battery” is justifiable, that is, they have good reasons to beat their wives up when they deem necessary, while 3 in 10 women also share this same belief.

Female Genital Mutilation or Cutting (FGM or FGC) is still prevalent in the country, despite the call for its abolition. Findings show circumcision estimates to be one in five Nigerian Women aged 15-49. Besides, 86% of female genital cutting occurs before a girl reaches age 5, with 5% of girls undergoing FGC before reaching the age of 15.
Education

The national survey results reveal disparities between male and female access to education. While 48% of males of ages 15-49 years have a secondary school education, only 40% of the female population in this age category achieved same feat. Likewise, only 11% of females have more than a secondary school education as against 17% of for the male gender. Conversely, 35% of females of ages 15-49 lack any formal education but the figure is 22% for males.

However, current estimates show improvements in access between 2013 and 2018, as the rate of women without formal education reduced from 42% in 2013 to 35% in 2018. The median number of years of schooling completed has increased from 5.0 to 6.5 years during the same period. However, among men of ages 15-49, the median number of years of schooling increased from 6.6 to 10.5 years. This shows the gap in school completion rates between male and females has widened from 1.6% in 2013 to 4% in 2018.

65.1% of men are literate compared to 50.7% of women (age 15-49)
Employment and earnings

Here, we regard employment as having engaged in any form of paid work, excluding house chores. Findings show that 74% of married women aged 15-49 have jobs, as against 99% employed married men. In addition, 15% of women and 8% of men do not receive any payment for their work.

The percentage of employed married women has increased in the last few years, from 71% in both 2008 and 2013 to 74% in 2018. The percentage of employed married women who receive cash earnings (including cash and in-kind) increased from 81% in 2008 to 93% in 2013, but declined to 85% in 2018. The percentage of employed married women not paid for their work declined from 17% to 6% between 2008 and 2013, then rose to 15% in 2018.

A 72% percent of female cash-earners aged 15-49 mainly decide
how to utilise their income; 20% make such decisions jointly with their husbands. The remaining 8% reported that their husband primarily managed these decisions.

Over time, however, the percentage of married women who decided how to spend their income grew, albeit slowly. In 2008, it was 66%, 70% in 2013 and 72% in 2018. The proportion of those who decided jointly with their husbands has remained relatively constant from 2008 to 2018 (19%-20%).

Further, about 84% of men earn more than their wives; a measly 5% of women earn more than their husbands. However, it is remarkable that the percentage of women who earn more than their husbands increased from 4% in 2013 to 5% in 2018.

CONTROL OVER WOMEN’S EARNINGS

Percentage of currently married women age 15-49 years who received cash earnings

Figure 2
Ownership of assets

The constitution of Nigeria avails equal rights to both men and women in the acquisition and ownership of assets. Despite the constitutional provision, men are over three times as likely to own a house or land as women are. On house ownership, 37% of men own a house while 11% of women own same. On land ownership, 38% of men own land alone or jointly with someone but 12% of women achieve same feat.

The percentage of women who own a house alone or jointly with someone else declined from 18% in 2013 to 11% in 2018, and the percentage who own land alone or jointly declined from 15% to 12%. House ownership also declined among men, from 40% to 37%.

However, over the same period, land ownership among men increased from 34% to 38%.

OWNERSHIP OF HOUSE AND LAND
Percentage of women and men age 15-49 years who

- Own a House alone or jointly
- Own a land alone or jointly

Women
- 11% own a house alone or jointly
- 12% own a land alone or jointly

Men
- 37% own a house alone or jointly
- 38% own a land alone or jointly
Participation in decision making

Participation in household decision-making is an essential aspect of women’s empowerment and reflects women’s level of agency within their own household and environment.

Some 56% of female respondents attest that their husbands managed their healthcare, while 59% of husbands manage decisions about major household purchases. Thirty-three percent of women made decisions with their partners regarding their healthcare; 34% of women jointly decide on major household purchases. However, only 11% of women take independent decisions on their healthcare and 6% solely decide on household purchases by themselves.

Findings also revealed that about 45% of women decided with their partners on visits to their family or relatives. Another 40% reported that their husband was the authority on such issues, leaving 15% who had a veto on such matters.

In total, instances where the woman have either sole or joint decisions shows that, 44% of married women take part alone or jointly with their husband in decisions regarding their health care. In addition, 40% of female respondents attested to their involvement in decisions about major household purchases; 60% contribute to resolutions on visits to their family and relatives, and 34% take part in all decisions.

While married women’s participation in all three decisions has increased since 2013, it was a slight change-from 31% to 34%. However, the percentage of women who do not participate in any of the three decisions has fallen from 48% to 37%.

1 in 10 women solely decide on their healthcare.
WOMEN’S PARTICIPATION IN DECISION MAKING
Percentage of currently married women age 15-49 years who usually making specific decisions by themselves or jointly with their husbands

- **44%** Own healthcare
- **40%** Making major household purchases
- **60%** Visit family or relative
- **34%** Participate in all three
- **37%** Participate in None

Figure 4
SEXUAL INTIMACY AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH
Marriage and sexual activity

Marriage and sexual activity determine women’s pregnancy exposure levels. The age at consummation of marriage and several reproductive exactions borne by sexually active females greatly affect their health, especially the child-bride, pregnant teen, mother and newborn child.

A survey of women between ages 15-49 in Nigeria shows that they married at an average age of 19 years. That is about eight years earlier than men sampled within the same age category are. Men ranging from 30 to 49 reported that they got married around the age of 27 years. In fact, the median age at first marriage reported among women who are now between 20 and 49 years of age is 19.1 years. Men marry later than women with the median age at first marriage reported among men aged 30-49 being 27.7 years. Again, women with no education marry 6 years earlier (16 years old) than women with a secondary education (22 years old).

Overall, the percentage of married women is consistent with the percentage in 2013, when 7 in 10 women were in a marital union. However, there has been an increase among men in a marital union, from 50% to 57% in the same period.
A majority of Nigerians engage in sexual activity before marriage. Women age 25-29 reported that they had first sexual intercourse around the age of 17 years. For the men aged 25-50, their age at first sexual intercourse was an average of 22 years.

Among males, their median age at first sexual intercourse is 6 years earlier than their median age at first marriage. For females, their median age at first sexual intercourse is 2 years earlier than the median age at first marriage.

These disparities between the time of male and female sexual and marital exposures corroborates the prevalence of early marriages among women than men. More so when the percentage of women who had sex by age 18 increased between 2013 and 2018 from 54% to 57%, while between the same period, male estimates declined from 19% to 15%.
High risk sex

People who have multiple sex partners are at greater risk of contracting HIV and other Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs). Therefore, information on the number of sexual partners that people have and their practice of safe sex is important in designing and monitoring programmes that control the spread of HIV.

Generally, educated persons in Nigeria are more conscious of safe sexual practices compared to those who are less educated. For respondents within the age range of 15-49, only 1% of women had multiple sexual partners at a time. For men within the same age range, 13% of men have multiple sex partners at a time. Although females hardly have more than one sexual partner at a time, findings reveal that males practice safe sex more than females do. Six in ten men always used a condom when having sex in a non-marital intercourse while just 4 in 10 women have sex with a condom in use, during a non-marital intercourse.

Further, women living in both rural and urban areas have lower numbers of lifetime sex partners than men in these same areas. Women in rural areas had figures of 2.3 lifetime sex partners, while those in urban have a little less average of 1.9 lifetime sex partners. For men, the average figure is 5 lifetime sex partners in rural areas and 4 lifetime sex partners in urban areas.
LIFETIME SEXUAL PARTNERS BY MARITAL STATUS
Mean number of sexual partners in lifetime for women and men age 15-49 years

- Never Married
  - Women: 2.8%
  - Men: 4.6%

- Married and living together
  - Women: 1.9%
  - Men: 4.3%

- Divorced/Seperated/Widowed
  - Women: 2.8%
  - Men: 5.4%

Figure 6
Fertility

Adolescent/teenage pregnancy is a major health concern because of its association with higher morbidity and mortality for both the mother and the child. Furthermore, childbearing during adolescence comes with many adverse social consequences, especially regarding educational attainment and financial independence. Women who become mothers in their teens are more likely to drop out of school.

In Nigeria, 19% of women between ages 15-19 have begun to bear children. While 14% have given birth already, 4% are pregnant with their first child. Teenagers with primary education or no education are more likely to get pregnant than those with secondary education and above (23% among those with primary education and 44% among those with no education).

However, the percentage of teenagers who have given birth, or are pregnant with their first child has decreased since 1990, from 28% to 19%.

Interestingly, amongst married couples, the data showed men desire more children than women.
The ideal family size for male respondents was 7 children, but for women it was 6 children.

In terms of child spacing, 34% of married women aged 15-49 want to have another child within 2 years, while 30% want to wait at least 2 years. In the same age category, 24% and 19% of married women and married men respectively wanted no more children.

Despite some women’s desire to limit childbearing, only 12% used any method of contraception. In addition, 19% of married women have an unmet need for family planning, i.e. they want no more children or want to wait at least two years for their next birth, but are not on contraception as desired.

Contraceptive use among married women increased from 15% in 2013 to 17% in 2018. Use of any modern method of contraception also increased from 10% to 12% in the same timeframe. In addition, there has been a noticeable rise in utilisation of implants between 2008 and 2018, from 0% to 3%.

**Figure 8**

**TEENAGE MOTHERHOOD BY EDUCATION LEVEL**
Percentage of young women age 15-19 years who are pregnant or already mothers

- No education: 43.7%
- Primary: 23.2%
- Secondary: 8.2%
- More than secondary: 0.8%
HIV/AIDS knowledge, attitude and behaviours

Generally, almost 3 in 4 women and men (71% of women and 74% of men) are knowledgeable about HIV/AIDS prevention methods. Specific to age categories, 4 in 10 young women (age 15-19) possess the comprehensive knowledge of methods of HIV prevention, and their knowledge is still fraught with various misconceptions regarding transmission of the virus. However, 1 in every 2 women within ages 25-29 possess adequate knowledge about HIV. For males, 3 in 10 young men (15-19) and 1 in every 2 middle-aged men (40-49) have this knowledge.

The percentage of women and men with a comprehensive knowledge of HIV has also increased between 2013 and 2018, from 26% to 46% among women, and from 37% to 45% among men.

KNOWLEDGE OF HIV PREVENTION AMONG WOMEN BY STATE
Percentage of women age 15-49 who know that HIV can be prevented by using condoms and limiting sex to one uninfected partner

Figure 9
Negotiating sex with husbands

Data showed that over two-thirds of Nigerian women and men agree that a wife can negotiate sexual relations with her husband. Specifically, 69% of women and 65% of men sampled agreed that a wife may refuse sex to her husband if he has other sexual partners. Similarly, 3 in 4 women and men say a wife may ask her husband to use a condom if he has an STI.

In negotiating sexual intercourse, half of the married women in the National Survey claim they can decline sexual intercourse with their spouse if they do not want to have sex. Conversely, 41% of women sampled say they can ask their husbands for sex when they want to have sex.

Overall, the percentage of women who believe a wife may request the use of condoms by her husband if she knows he has an STD increased from 75% in 2013 to 77% in 2018. However, the proportion of men who agree that a wife could refuse sex to her husband if he had an STD decreased from 88% in 2013 to 74% in 2018.

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**ATTITUDES TOWARDS NEGOTIATING SEX WITH HUSBANDS**

Percentage of women and men age 15-49 years who believe that a wife is justified in

- Refusing to have sex with her husband if she knows he has sex with other women
  - Women: 69%
  - Men: 65%

- Requesting her husband use a condom if she knows he has an STI
  - Women: 77%
  - Men: 74%
PERCEPTION TOWARDS VIOLENCE
Attitudes towards wife battering

The information gathered shows that five types of circumstances usually resulted in violence against a woman at home. These are when the woman cooks and the food is burnt, when she argues with the husband, when she goes out without informing her husband, when she neglects the children, and when she refuses to have sex with her husband.

With respect to the above stated circumstances surrounding domestic violence against women, 28% of women in Nigeria believe a husband can justifiably beat his wife in at least one of the five specified circumstances, and 21% of men share this belief. Moreover, 31% of married women sampled agreed that beating a woman was justifiable in at least one of the five counts. Likewise, 2 in 10 employed women and 3 in 10 unemployed women agree that beating a woman in at least one category above is normal.

However, the rate of female acceptance of domestic violence decreased with increasing education and wealth. For instance, 43% of women with no education and 46% in the lowest wealth quintile justify wife-beating in at least one of the five categories. In contrast, only 9% and 10% of women with more education and high wealth quintile rationalised such violence in at least one category.

Moreover, the percentage of women who normalise assault against women in at least one of the five specified circumstances has declined substantially. In 2008, it was 43%; it dropped to 35% in 2013 and 28% in 2018. The percentage of men justifying wife-beating in at least one of the specified circumstances has also decreased from 30% in 2008 to 21% in 2018.
Experience of physical violence

Female divorcees, widows, or women separated from spouses are most likely to have experienced physical violence. About 49% of sampled women in these categories experienced such violence from age 15. For married women, physical violence is less likely, with 28% of sampled married women experiencing physical violence from age 15.

In the same vein, women in the workforce were more prone to physical violence than unemployed women were. Some 43 in 100 employed women experience violence from age 15 as against 32 in 100 housewives.

The percentage of women who have experienced physical violence since age 15 increased from 28% in both 2008 and 2013 to 31% in 2018. In the past 12 months prior to the surveys, the percentage of women who had experienced physical violence decreased from 15% in 2008 to 11% in 2013 but increased to 14% in 2018.
Experience of sexual violence

Not less than 17 million (9%) Nigerian women aged 15-49 have experienced sexual violence. And while 8 million (4%) said that they had experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months before the survey, 4% of these women first experienced sexual violence before age 18.

Sexual violence prevalence ranges from 5% each in the North West and South West to 16% in the North East. Gombe State has the highest recorded cases of women who have experienced sexual violence with 45%; the prevalence is lowest in Kebbi with less than 1%.

Perpetrators of sexual violence typically have a personal affiliation to the woman. So it could either be her current husband/partner; former husband/partner or current/ex-boyfriend. For single women who have never married, the main perpetrators are strangers.

The number of women aged 15-49 who experienced sexual violence has increased from 7% in 2013 to 9% in 2018. Across all age categories, women that experienced sexual violence also increased from 3% in 2013 to 4% in 2018.
EXPERIENCE OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE BY ZONE
Percentage of women age 15-49 years who have ever experienced sexual violence since age 15

- Ever
- In the past 12 months

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Ever</th>
<th>In the past 12 months</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North Central</td>
<td>15.6%</td>
<td>9.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North East</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North West</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South East</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South South</td>
<td>12.6%</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South West</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

EXPERIENCE OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE
Percentage of women age 15-49 years who have ever experienced sexual violence since age 15

- Never Married: 8%
- Married and living together: 9%
- Divorced/Seperated/Widowed: 15%
Violence during pregnancy

On a general note, most victims of violence during pregnancy range between the ages of 15-24. It is experienced by 5 in 50 pregnant women between ages 15-24 as compared to 2 in 50 of those between ages 40-49. The percentage of women who have ever experienced violence during pregnancy is highest in the North East with 12% women. It is lowest in the North West, with 1% of women.

The data further showed female divorcees, widows and separated (15% of them) were more likely to experience violence during pregnancy than married women (5% of them) and women who had never married (9% of them).

Overall, the number of women aged 15-24 who have experienced violence during pregnancy has increased by 4.3% from 6% in 2013 to 10.3% in 2018.

EXPERIENCE OF VIOLENCE DURING PREGNANCY

Percentage of women age 15-49 years who have ever experienced violence during pregnancy since age 15
Degree of marital control

A man’s obsessive control of his wife’s activities increases the possibility of violence against the woman. These three marital control behaviours were measured: jealousy or anger, possessiveness, and attempts to isolate the wife from her family. Findings show that 44% of men get angry and jealous if their partners talk to other men. Likewise, 41% of sampled men insist on always knowing who their partners were talking to. In extreme scenarios, 16% of the men did not permit their women partners to meet with their female friends. One in ten women is accused of being unfaithful and made to limit her contact with her family. Overall, 18% of women reported that their husband displays at least three of the specified marital control behaviours, and 42% said that their husband does not display any of the behaviours.

**DEGREE OF MARITAL CONTROL EXERCISED BY HUSBANDS**
Percentage of ever-married women age 15-49 years whose husband/partner demonstrates specific types of controlling behaviours

- Is jealous of angry if she talks to other men: 44%
- Frequently accuses her of being unfaithful: 10%
- Does not permit her to meet her female friends: 16%
- Tries to limit her contact with family: 10%
- Insists on knowing where she is at all times: 41%
- Displays 3 or more specific behaviours: 18%
- Displays none of the specific behaviours: 42%

Figure 16
Spousal violence

Spousal violence can be in the form of physical, sexual and/or emotional abuse on the other partner. 36% of the once-married women have experienced spousal violence from their current or most recent husband.

Spousal violence is more common among women who are employed but do not earn cash. Among this category, 49% have experienced varied forms of spousal violence compared to 36% of women who work and earn cash and 32% of unemployed women.

More so, educated women are less likely to experience spousal, physical, sexual or emotional violence. Among respondents who are educated, 26% had experienced some form of violence but among women with lower levels of education, 35%-40% of respondents have been victims of violence. The probability of spousal violence is also higher (29%) with women in the high wealth quintile, when compared with other classes (36%-40%). The prevalence of spousal physical, sexual, or emotional violence ranges from a high of 50% in the North Central zone to a low of 20% in the South West.

The prevalence of all forms of violence was higher in 2018 than in 2008 and 2013. Overall, the prevalence of spousal physical, sexual, or emotional violence increased from 31% in 2008 and 25% in 2013 to 36% in 2018.
Seeking help to stop violence

Seeking help provides access to solutions. And even if the solution is not readily offered, it brings emotional and psychological comfort. It helps ease burdens, enabling women to take hold of their lives. It is essentially an important aspect of women’s empowerment.

Nigerian women who have experienced both physical and sexual violence are more likely to have sought help (40%) than women who have experienced only sexual violence (26%). As for those who have experienced only physical violence, only 30% sought help. The trivial estimate corresponding to victims of sexual violence who sought help is not unconnected with the stigmatisation attached to it.

Overall, 32% of Nigerian women who experienced physical or sexual violence sought help to stop the
violence. In contrast, 55% did not seek help, nor tell anyone. The data further revealed that educational attainment and wealth had no bearing with “help-seeking”.

Women who experienced violence sought for help mostly from their family, with a 73% rate compared to those that sought help from their husband’s/partner’s family (26%). Four percent sought help from a religious leader, while 1% each sought help from doctors or medical personnel, the police, or lawyers. A negligible proportion of women sought help from a social work organisation.

There is just a minimal change between 2013 and 2018 in the percentage of women who have experienced physical or sexual violence and sought help (31% and 32%, respectively).
Female Genital Cutting

FEMALE GENITAL CUTTING
FGC involves cutting or removing the external female genitalia for non-therapeutic reasons. The practice causes several complications and health problems for women. In Nigeria, 61% of women and 63% of once-married women have heard of FGC. Findings show circumcision estimates to be 20% for women in Nigeria ages 15-49. For 86% of those circumcised, this happens before their fifth birthday, with 5% undergoing FGC before clocking age 15.

**PREVALENCE OF FEMALE GENITAL CUTTING BY AGE**

Younger women aged 15-19 are less likely to undergo FGC than the older ones, of ages 45-49. The survey returned 14% and 31% respectively from both age groups of women. FGC is most prevalent in the South East where about 2 in 5 women are circumcised. Close to this is the South West, where almost one-third of the women are circumcised. The prevalence of FGC was lowest in the North East, with 3 in 50 females being circumcised.

When asked if it is a religious requirement, 3 in 4 women believe that it is not one. Similarly, 13 in 20 women agree that the state should stop the practice of FGC through law and enforcement.

Based on the 2013 and 2018 NDHS, the proportion of circumcised women decreased from 25% in 2013 to 20% in 2018.
EMPLOYMENT IN THE CIVIL SERVICE
Although women make up almost half of Nigeria’s population, the civil service employs much fewer women than men. In some instances, duly qualified women give up employment for family responsibilities. NBS data shows that on the average, women made up only 38% of civil servants from 2010 to 2015. In the same period, 62% of civil servants were male.

Figures show that men consistently dominated positions annually in the various federal ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs). Women employed into the MDAs (occupying grade level 01 – 17 and special grade level) were 34.7%, 35.1% and 32.8% for 2015, 2016 and 2017, respectively. However, employment data for the state civil service shows there is lesser disparity between male and female employee population in 2014 and 2015.
Politics - National

There is a clear disparity in the participation of men and women in politics and national decision making. As a result, women don’t have significant representation in these areas, which affects their political and socioeconomic opportunities. As for men, they have dominated Nigeria’s political sphere.

NBS data shows that the Senate and House of Representative had the highest women representation in 2007-2011, accounting for 7.2% of all federal legislators. By 2011 to 2015 and 2015-2019, the proportion of women legislators fell to 6.6% of all.

![Figure 21: Percentage of Gender Distribution in the National Assembly from 1999-2019](#)

For executive ministerial and political positions, the highest proportion of female appointments was in 2011, with 22.1%. A summary shows that out of 341 ministers that have served from 1999 to 2015, only 14% of them were women while 86% were men.
Politics - State

None of the 36 states in Nigeria has yet elected a female governor. Only a few women have been elected as deputy governors. NBS data shows that the number of female deputy governors which was 8 in 2011 dropped to 6 in 2015.

At the State Houses of Assembly also, men far outnumber women. The proportion of female representatives grew gradually from 1999 to 2011. It was 2.8% in 1999, 4.1% in 2003, 6.1% in 2007, 8.2% in 2011 but declined sharply to 5.3% in 2015. Data from NBS reveals that no woman has been elected as a deputy house minority leader in any of the State House of Assembly.
## Governance - Judiciary

Constitutionally, positions in the judiciary are open to both men and women. Yet, NBS data shows marked inequalities between the two genders in appointments of Judges into Federal Courts, including the Supreme Court of Nigeria, Court of Appeal, Federal High Court and National Industrial Court. From 2011-2016, the highest proportion of female Judges was 31.6% in 2016, but on average, 29.4% of Judges who occupied positions at the Federal Courts from 2011 to 2016 were females.

### PERCENTAGE REPRESENTATIVES OF PRINCIPAL OFFICERS IN STATES ASSEMBLY FROM 1999-2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Men</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Speaker</td>
<td>3.21%</td>
<td>96.79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deputy Speaker</td>
<td>3.45%</td>
<td>96.55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House Majority Leader</td>
<td>1.33%</td>
<td>98.67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deputy House Majority Leader</td>
<td>3.53%</td>
<td>96.47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House Minority Leader</td>
<td>5.56%</td>
<td>94.44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deputy House Minority Leader</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House Chief Whip</td>
<td>6.54%</td>
<td>93.46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deputy House Chief Whip</td>
<td>11.68%</td>
<td>88.32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House Minority Whip</td>
<td>6.25%</td>
<td>93.75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deputy House Minority Whip</td>
<td>1.42%</td>
<td>98.58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee Chairpersons</td>
<td>6.51%</td>
<td>93.49%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Figure 23*
The NBS report noted some limitations in assessing available data of women representations in the civil and public service. However, from the data available, the highest representation of women among high-ranking government administrators with decision-making powers was in the position of Special Assistants, with 3 in 10 appointees on this cadre. Next to this, 1 in 4 Heads of Service have been females, as well as 1 in 5 Special Advisers. No woman has ever been nominated as Governor of the Central Bank.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Men</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Head of Service</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent Secretary</td>
<td>13.64%</td>
<td>86.36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Adviser</td>
<td>22.86%</td>
<td>77.14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Assistant</td>
<td>27.94%</td>
<td>72.06%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Bank Governors</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief Executive Officer</td>
<td>12.54%</td>
<td>87.46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director General</td>
<td>9.52%</td>
<td>90.48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Secretary</td>
<td>21.62%</td>
<td>78.38%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 25
Rape/sexual violence

The NBS 2018 Statistical Report on Women and Men shows that 7 out of 10 rape victims were females. In 2015, 63% of all rape victims were women and girls. This proportion increased to 72% in 2016 and decreased to 69% in 2017.

PERCENTAGE OF RAPE INCIDENCES IN NIGERIA (2015-2017)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Men</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>63.04%</td>
<td>36.96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>72.13%</td>
<td>27.87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>69.33%</td>
<td>30.67%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 26

 Trafficking in persons

A country is perceived to have human trafficking challenges if it is a usual country of origin, transit, or destination for victims. Persons within the ages of 16-25 were the most vulnerable to trafficking, and females constitute 76.6% of trafficked persons from 2013 to 2015, according to the NBS report.

The proportion of females trafficked has increased significantly over the years, from 48.7% of all trafficked persons in 2013 to 49.4% in 2014 and 76.4% in 2015. NBS report revealed that trafficked persons between the ages of 0-5 years dropped from 28 females and 26 males in 2014 to 19 females and 20 males in 2015.
Prostitution trafficking

Sex trafficking involves bringing persons to a country to engage in prostitution. According to NAPTIP records, no male was trafficked for sex from 2013-2015. It occurred more among women between the ages of 18-27, when compared to the other age groups of women. Thus, 75%, 81% and 77% of women trafficked in 2013, 2014 and 2015 respectively fall within ages 18-27. The actual number of women trafficked for prostitution within the ages of 18-27 was 202, 141 and 261 between 2013, 2014 and 2015 respectively, from the total number of trafficked persons which stood at 269, 173, and 339 in the three consecutive years.
Forced labour trafficking

Persons trafficked for forced labour are usually of ages below 27 years. NAPTIP data from the NBS statistical report on women and men shows that persons (male and female) between 1-17 age fell victim to this crime more than persons (female and male) in the 18-27 age bracket. It also showed a high prevalence in female trafficking for labour over men. In 2013, 67.5% of trafficked persons between ages 1-17 were females. This figure increased to 68.4% in 2014 and reduced to 66.7% in 2015. The total number of women trafficked for forced labour in the three years are 225, 144 and 171 respectively. For males, the total number trafficked for forced labour in the three years was 72, 81, and 93 respectively.
Early marriage

Early marriage is a union between two people in which one or both parties are younger than 18 years of age. The NBS survey revealed that women get into early marriages more than men do. In a Multi Cluster Survey carried out, the result revealed that 18.5% of Nigerian women aged 15-49 get married before their 15th birthday. For the men, only 2.2% of them marry before they turn 15.

The survey further revealed that 44.1% of the women within the same age range get married by the time they are celebrating their 18th birthday. This indicates that two out of five Nigerian women get married by the time they are 18. As for the men, only 6% of them get married before they turn 18.
EARLY MARRIAGE
Percentage of Nigerians age 15-49 years who first married or entered a marital union before their fifteenth and eighteenth birthday

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Married before age fifteen</td>
<td>18.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married before age eighteen</td>
<td>44.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Currently married/ in union</td>
<td>22.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In polygamous marriage/ union</td>
<td>36.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 30
Exposure to mass media

Media exposure signifies the extent to which people encounter specific messages or classes of messages of mass media content. The NBS survey measured the total number of women aged 15-49 who claimed they either listened to the radio or watched television or read newspapers or magazines at least once a week. The result shows overall that 5.5% of women were exposed to at least one of these forms of mass media while 18.5% of men were exposed to it.

Likewise, the survey shows that 8% of women read newspapers at least once a week compared to 25.3% of men. With respect to people listening to radio, more men listen to radio than women as 3 out of 5 men listen to radio once a week compared to 2 of 5 women. As for television, 39.8% of women watched TV at least once a week compared to 47.6% for men.

The overview revealed that 45.7% of women were not exposed to any of these forms of mass media at least once a week while only 28.1% of men fell into this category.
Exposure to computer and use of internet

The NBS survey shows that 18.6% of young women in Nigeria aged 15-24 have basic computer knowledge and have used it, compared to 26.5% of the men. However, only 13.4% of females and 20.6% of males have used a computer within the period of the survey.

The world wide web connects the world; hence, the ability to surf the web via the internet gives him/her access to information.

Similarly, while the internet aids access to useful data, information, and knowledge for personal, social, and economic development, within the age bracket of 15-24 year olds, only 17% of females have access to the internet. In contrast, 32% of males accessed the net within a period of 12 months as indicated by NBS survey. In terms of frequency of usage, only 12.9% of women and 26.2% of men ages 15-24 use the internet at least once a week.
USE OF INFORMATION/COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY
Percentage of young Nigerians age 15-24 years who have ever used a computer and the internet

- **Ever used a computer**: 18.6% Women, 26.5% Men
- **Used a computer during the last 12 months**: 13.4% Women, 20.6% Men
- **Used a computer at least once a week during the last 12 months**: 7.5% Women, 14.2% Men
- **Ever used the internet**: 20% Women, 36.5% Men
- **Used the internet during the last 12 months**: 17.3% Women, 32% Men
- **Used the internet at least once a week during the last 12 months**: 12.9% Women, 26.2% Men

*Figure 32*
SOURCES

National Population Commission [Nigeria] and ICF International. 2014. Gender in Nigeria: Data from the 2013 Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS). Rockville, Maryland, USA.


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