

The Dynamics of Sexual Politics in Nigeria. A Catalyst for Gender Bias

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Dynamics simply buttresses the effect of forces of nature that relate to activities which may be prescribed or modified. Dynamics of sexual politics in Nigeria seeks to address ideas, activities, laws or change and development. There are a lot of factors that seem to negative women's sexual rights in Nigeria as against the international guidelines as contained under the conventions e.g. CEDAW and Affirmative Action. This paper will seek to analyze laws that discriminate against women, the nature of sexual politics in Nigeria, customary beliefs and attitudes that threaten the female gender. The trend of emancipation as practiced by other nations will also be in focus, solution to the problem and the way for ward will also be discussed

Keywords: dynamics, sexual politics, Nigeria, gender bias, CEDAW

INTRODUCTION

Sexual politics was an important theoretical touch stone for the second wave feminism of the 70'. In introducing the term "Sexual politics," one must first answer the inevitable question "can the relationship between the sexes be viewed in a political light at all?" the answer depends on how one defines politics. The term "politics" shall refer to power-structure relationship arrangements whereby one group of persons is controlled by another (K. Millet 1969). By way of parenthesis one might add that although an ideal politics might simply be conceived of as the arrangement of human life on agreeable and rational principles from whence the entire notion of power over others should be banished, one must confess that this is not what constitutes the political as we know it, and it is to this that we must address ourselves.

A disinterested emanation of our system of sexual relationship must point out that the situation between the sexes now, and throughout history, is a case of a phenomenon defined by Max Weber as herrschaft, a relationship of dominance and subordination. What goes keenly unexamined, often even unacknowledged (yet is institutionalized nonetheless) in our social order, is the birthright priority whereby males rule females (K. Millet 1969). Though this system a most ingenious form of "interior colonization" has been achieved. This is sexual politics, the inherent domination of males over females and this is more prevalent in third world countries of which Nigeria is a part. Gender connotes the characteristics, whether biological or social influenced, by which people define male and female (K. Millet 1969). Gender is also defined by the American Heritage Dictionary (www.Wikipedia/heritagedictionary.com) as "classification of sex. According to this same source, bias is defined as "preference or inclination that inhibits impartiality; prejudice". Thus gender bias is

separation of gender in a way which prefers one sex over the other.

Dynamics simply buttresses the effects of forces of nature that relate is activities which may be as prescribed or modified. It is characterized by flexibility and adaptability for a better positioning or repositioning. It is an expression of movement or change of attitude or practice which will be instrumental to progress and development (I. Brookes 2008). The crux of this paper is that despite appearances on what we shall discuss further as being the reasons for this disparity and inequality of treatment that no condition is permanent even our ideology and on that note the court in the case of (Lewis and others v Bankole 1908) noted:

One of the most striking features of West African native law and custom is its flexibility; it appears to have always been subject to motives of expediency and it shows unquestionable adaptability to altered circumstance.

Brief History of Sexual Politics and Gender Bias

Sexual politics is a report from the front lines project launched by (Sexuality Policy Watch 2004), a transnational, cross cultural research initiative that hoped to capture some dynamics of sexual politics in our time. Research was performed in eight countries – Brazil, Egypt, India, Peru, Poland, South Africa, Turkey and Vietnam – and in relation to two global institution, the United Nations and the World Bank. The case studies reflect great differences in theme and emphasis, some focusing more on HIV/AIDS, some on reproductive health, some on issues of gender and sexual identity. Some countries feels that sexual politics are always on some level about power and, everywhere, attempts to destabilize traditional gender and sexual relations will threaten established political, religious and familial hierarchies.

Gender bias are those discriminatory practice against the female gender borne out of sexual politics. This paper agree with all these constructs and goes further to identify more indices that promotes gender bias as a result of Nigerian sexual politics.

Explanations for Gender Bias in Nigeriastructural Marginalization

Gender Bias often stem from social structures that have institutionalized conceptions of gender differences.

Cultural Stereotypes

Cultural Stereotypes are engrained in both men and women and these stereotypes are a possible explanation for gender inequality and the resulting gendered wage disparity. Women have traditionally been viewed as being caring and nurturing and are designated to occupations which requires such skills. While these skills are culturally valued, they were typically associated with domesticity, so occupations requiring these same skills are not economically valued. Men have traditionally been viewed as the breadwinner or the workers, so jobs held by men have been historically economically valued and occupations predominated by men continue to be economically valued and pay higher wages. (J. Ezeilo 2008).

Sexism and Discrimination

Gender inequality can further be understood through the mechanisms of sexism. Discrimination takes place in this manner as women are subject to prejudicial treatment on the basis of gender alone. Sexism occurs when men and women are framed within two dimensions of social recognition.

Benevolent sexism takes place when women are viewed as possessing low degrees of competency and high degrees of warmth. Although this is the result of a more positive stereotype of women, this still contributes to gender inequality as this stereotype is only applied to women who conform to the caring or nurturing stereotypes, with the remaining women still being discriminated against as they are not viewed in this positive light. Also, this form of sexism has negative effects as well, as these notions of women include the idea that women are weak and in need of the protection of men. (J. Ezeilo 2008).

Hostile sexism takes place when women are viewed as having high levels of competency but low degrees of warmth. This form of sexism is framed as an antagonistic attitude toward women, and occurs as women are perceived to be attempting to control men, either through sexual seduction or feminist ideology. Discrimination also plays out with networking and in preferential treatment within the economic market. Men typically occupy positions of power within the job economy.

Discrimination against men in the workplace is more rare but does occur, particularly in health care professions. Only an estimated 0.4% of midwives in the UK are male. Discrimination against women in the workplace also occurs. Only an estimated 1% of roofers in the US are female. (K. Millet 1969).

Gender Media

Media helps create and reinforce a gender duality base on traditional view of men and women. Often, females and males are portrayed differently in television and film according to stereotypes. Boys and/or men are often portrayed as active, aggressive and sexually aggressive persons while women are portrayed as quaint, passive, pretty and incompetent beings. One way of portraying the man is in this 'macho-man' image. The macho-man image relies on a man disrespecting a female in order to show and prove his manliness. It is also rare to see men doing any type of housework or caring for children in the media. The portrayal of women also has an assumptive aspect that says that whiteness is ideal and standard. Even when black women are shown, they conform to white definitions of beauty which includes straight hair and light skin. Latin and Asian women are shown in a sexual manner which is derogatory to their races (K. Millet 1969). The portrayal of women varies from women sitting around watching men do things to women being dominated by men in music videos.

Gender Inequality across the Globe

Gender inequality is a result of the persistent discrimination of one group of people based upon gender and it manifests itself differently according to race, culture, politics, country, and economic situation. It is furthermore considered a casual factor of violence against women. Gender discrimination against women is an entrenched, global pandemic. This is evidenced in the "missing girls" phenomenon in Asia, where it is estimated that due to the undervaluing of women and girls over 100 million girls are missing as a result of the infanticide of girl children, sex selection for boys, allocation of economic and nutritional resources away from girl children, and generalized violence against women and girls (M. Cranton 1967). In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, rape and violence against women and girls is used as a tool of war. And in Afghanistan, girls have had acid thrown in their faces for attending school. Considerable focus has been given to the issue of gender inequality at the international level by organizations such as the United Nations (UN), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and the World Bank, particularly in developing countries. The causes and effects of gender inequality vary by country, as do solutions for combating it.

With the introduction of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), more vigorous global and national attentions are now drawn to pursuing **gender sensitive** policies. Goals 3 the MDGs, aimed at achieving gender equality and women's empowerment, it not only of intrinsic value in itself, but also central to the attainment of all the other MDGs. To meet MDGs 3 and all the other goals, there is the need to increase the capacity of development planners and other policy advocates to understand how gender relations work in their interface and at all levels.

Status of Gender Equality and Situation of Women in Nigeria

Patriarchy

Nigeria is a highly patriarchal society, there men dominate all spheres of women's lives. Women are in a subordinate position (particularly at the community and household levels), and male children are preferred over the female. The influence of the mother and the father is particularly significant in shaping and perpetrating patriarchy. The mother provides the role model for daughters, while the father demonstrates to sons what it means to 'be a man'. (World Bank Report 2005).

By comparison, men employed within the informal sector are located in the upper levels and are predominantly engaged in higher income-generating activities. The need to support initiatives that ensure financial independence for women is a critical step for mainstreaming gender into governance, especially with respect to politics and public life in order to liberate Nigeria's human capital resource for active participation in the vision for a free market economy. (FIDA Nigeria Report 2008).

Constitutional Rights

Despite a general commitment to the principle of non-discrimination as enshrined in Section 2 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Nigeria falls short of the desired result of giving males and females equal opportunities to advance socially, physically, educationally, politically and economically. Evidences abound that several negative aspects of gender relations, such as gender-based division of labour, disparities between males and females access to power and resource, and gender biases in rights and entitlements, remain pervasive in Nigeria.

By the Nigeria Constitution, Civil and Political Rights (Chapter 4 of the 1999 Constitution) are actionable in a court of law whilst economic, social and cultural rights (Chapter 2 the 1999 Constitution) are not. Section 43 permits both male and female Nigerians to own and acquire movable and immovable property. In spite of this, a large proportion of women in Nigeria are barred from

owning land by customary laws of inheritance. (Customary Laws of Inheritance 1959)

Livelihoods

Data indicates that a sharp contrast between the income generating and livelihood opportunities of women and men persists across multiple sectors in Nigeria. For instance, women's participation in the industrial sector is 11% as compared with 30% for men. Women represent 87% of those employed in the service sector, which involves predominantly informal and unregulated forms of employment (Bureau of Statistics, 2004). In the Federal Civil Service, which is the largest single-entity employer in Nigeria, 76% of civil servants are men whereas 24% are women and women hold less than 14% of total management level positions. Women represent 17.5% and men 82.5% of those employed within the medical field, which generally involves highly skilled and relatively well-remunerated work (Bureau of Statistics, 2004).

Gender-Based norms also ascribed women the responsibility of carrying out tasks related to household management (i.e. domestic tasks, such as cooking, cleaning, caring for children and the elderly, etc.), which does not diminish when women engage in paid employment. This dual burden management and decision making positions at the same pace and rate as their male colleagues in virtually all sectors and spheres.

Economy

Gender inequalities within the overall society, and across all sectors, reflect the wide disparities between and men which, in turn, contribute to uneven development and the feminization of poverty. Among the 70% of the population estimated to be living below poverty line, over 65% are projected to be women. Income and purchasing power is estimated to be US\$1,495 for men as compared to US\$14 for women and men have greater access to high-paying, secure employment. For example, 76% of Federal Civil Service workers are men, whereas women make up 24% of the workforce and occupy less than 14% of the overall management positions, despite the appointment of women to the position of permanent secretaries (beginning in 2000 and in line with affirmative action initiatives). Additionally, approximately 17.5% of medical doctors are women whereas 85.5% are men (FIDA Nigeria Report, 2010). These disparities have a significant impact on the capacity of women and men to contribute to the economic growth of the country, the reform agenda, and efforts to reduce dependency ratios within family units and achieve the desired value-re-orientation goals of government. Other indications of gender inequalities include disparities in participation within the formal sector which stands at 87% men with 11% women compared to 30% men engaged in the

industrial sector. The extractive industry with annual business volume of over US\$42m has almost zero level participation of women (FIDA Nigeria Report, 2010).

Health and HIV/AIDS

The under-representation of women in decision making bodies and policy formulation processes also has a significant impact on the core economic sectors including the health sector's responsiveness to gender equality considerations. With the exception of reproduction health policies, the vast majority of sectoral policies and service delivery systems frequently fail to adopt gender sensitive approaches and address gender inequalities. In the area of health care, ensuring access to health facilities and affordable health services remains a major challenge for the country and women in particular. Doctor/patient ratios demonstrate that the health care system lacks the human resources necessary for responding to the health care needs of Nigerians (e.g. the doctor/patient ratio recorded at 1.70'000 in some instances).

The infection rate among female 20-24 years of age is 5.6%, as compared with the overall infection rate of 50%, while 60% of new infections are among females 15-25 years of age. Whereas the government has acknowledged the gender dimension of HIV/AIDS and has developed and implemented gender-sensitive HIV/AIDS programme, intervention, policies, and strategies (i.e. gender equality considerations are a central aspect of Nigeria's HIV/AIDS National Strategic Framework), significant challenges remain with respect to addressing practices that perpetuate gender inequalities, such as transactional sex, lack of access to health information and services and women's role in shouldering the burden of care for persons living with and affected by HIV/AIDS (CIDA Nigeria GSAA 2006)

Legal and Human Rights

As in most nations, Nigeria possesses a body of laws which regulate and govern various aspects of both public and private life. For instance marriage is regulated by and can be contracted under the Common Law, Statutory Law, Customary Law and Islamic (Shari'a) Law, However, the manner in which such laws are interpreted and applied is often inconsistent and frequently varies based on subjective consideration, particularly in cases where women seek redress for violations committed by their spouses or when intestate inheritance issues arise. This is further complicated by unwritten family laws and traditions which discriminated against women, especially in cases related to divorce, child custody and inheritance of properties, although Islamic laws tend to be more accommodating of women's concerns in cases pertaining to family/marital break-

up. Ensuring that laws and acts formulated to protect the rights and interests of women are enforced remains a major challenge for women's right advocates and gender and development practitioners. (R. Fatah 2001)

Human rights violations are prevalent in Nigeria with women's rights being violated much more often than those of men, in both the public and private spheres. To date, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), established in 1999, has not adequately fostered the capacity of key public institutions, officials and leaders to generate popular understanding and promote fundamental human rights and freedoms. The most pervasive and severe violations of women's rights are frequently those associated with the unwritten traditional norms and practices of Nigeria's numerous and diverse ethnic groups. These practices concern widowhood rites, inheritance rights, the land tenure system, female genital mutilation/female genital circumcision (FGM/FGC) and early marriage.

Agriculture

Women are responsible for carrying out 70% of agricultural labour, 50% of animal husbandry related activities and 5\60% of food processing activities. Despite the integral role that women play in the agricultural sector, their contributions are not valued or recognized, nor are they reflected in the National Accounting Systems or given prime consideration in agricultural policy processes. Consequently, the issues and concerns of women employed in the agricultural sector have been largely overlooked in programs dedicated to improving agricultural productivity. Women have access to less than 20% of available agricultural resources-a serious impediment to their maximizing agricultural production. Men are generally presumed to be the chief actors in agricultural production participants in and/or recipients of program-related support.

Gender Based Violence

Gender-based violence has become a major issue in recent times. It reflects the extent to which women's human rights are threatened thereby leading to the viocelessness of women in many issues concerning and affecting their lives. Violence against women, particularly domestic violence and rape, (Women's Aid Collectives WACOL, 2008). In Nigeria, harmful traditional practices meant to control women's sexuality have led to great sufferings. Notable among them is the practice of female genital mutilation, which is a violation of basic rights and a major lifelong risk to women's health. Another major violence against women is the insalubrious attitude of wife-beating and women trafficking. Equal relationships between men and women in matters of sexual relations and reproduction, including full respect for the physical integrity of the human body,

requires mutual respect and willingness to accept responsibility for the consequences of sexual behaviour, sensitivity and equity in gender relations enhance and promote respectful and harmonious partnership between men and women.

The law on domestic violence is clearly inadequate, particularly regarding wife battery. Domestic violence is currently classified under common assault, which down plays the seriousness of this crime. According to section 55 of the penal code, wife beating is allowed as long as it does not amount to grievous hurt. As defined in section 241 of the penal code "grievous hurt" include emasculation, permanent loss of sight, inability to hear deprivation of any member or joint, bone fracture of tooth dislocation (D. Yakubu, 2005). This means that a man who beats his wife short of inflicting the above injuries is acting within the law. Where is the woman's fundamental right to dignity then protected under such circumstances? Section 355 of the Criminal Code makes an indecent assault on males punishable by 3 years imprisonment. A similar offence of indecent assault on females is treated as mere misdemeanor punishable by a maximum of 2 years imprisonment, (Criminal Code Laws of Nigeria, 2004) clearly a discriminatory provision

Justice and Law Enforcement

The Nigerian Justice and Law Enforcement Administration is not gender – friendly in the delivery of its mandate, often negating to adhere to the principle of upholding fundamental rights to freedom and good governance. Operational procedures and protocols within most law enforcement agencies are biased in favour of men. The most striking example is the Police Act which views and treats women as not on equal standing with men. Many of its provisions violate provisions of the (CEDAW) and the African Protocol on People's Rights and the Rights of Women (APRRW). For instance, although women have the rights to post bail for police detainees, in practice women are frequently denied this and other rights on insufficient grounds.

Civil Disturbance and Conflict

Conflicts are unhealthy competition for power, resources and interests. By its very nature, conflict is counter productive. Indeed, the bases of conflicts in different parts of Nigeria are closely related to their economic and political history. The festering areas of conflict ranges from resource control agitation and the natural resource degradation in the Niger Delta Region, ethnic upheavals among rival tribes like the Tivs and Jukuns of the middle belt. The Ifes and Modakekes of the Southern and nationals of Nigeria and Cameroon in the Bakassi region, to religious conflict between Muslims and Christians in communities where people have co-existed for centuries. Women and children suffer more the brunt

of conflict relative to men. The issues women faced during conflict and civil disturbance include; violence, rape, hunger and disease, displacement etc. Participation in Political and decision making – Affirmative Action has been enshrined in (CEDAW 1979) and the (Beijing Declaration 1995) and this has not been implemented in Nigeria. In the recently conducted elections, the number of females at the National Assembly is 29 against the male folk who are more than a hundred. In the appointment of ministers, the president gave us 5% of the appointment below set standard of 35% the international community. This is highly regrettable.

Impact on International Development

Gender inequality and discrimination is argued to cause and perpetuate poverty and vulnerability in society as whole. Household and intra-household knowledge and resources are key influences in individuals' abilities to take advantage of external livelihood opportunities or respond appropriately to threats.

Despite acknowledgement by institutions such as the World Bank that gender inequality is bad for economic growth, there are many difficulties in creating a comprehensive response. It is argued that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) fails to acknowledge gender inequality as a cross-cutting issue. Gender is mentioned in MDG3 and MDG5: MDG3 measures gender parity in education, the share of women in wage employment and the proportion women in national legislatures. MDG5 focuses on maternal mortality and on universal access to reproductive health. However, even these targets are significantly off-track.

Challenges and Problems in Bridging the Gap in Nigeria

Women Ideology:- Women generally are gender blind. This reasoning was borne out of what transpired during the presidential primary of the People Democratic Party (PDP) held on the 16th January 2011. Three candidates were nominated for the primary, two males, one female. There were over 4,000 delegates, women numbering up to 2,000. In the casting of the primary votes, the only female contestant, Sarah got just her vote and no other. The question then is where are all the female who were nominated as delegates to vote. Instead of voting their fellow women they voted for the male counterpart. Where is that spirit of gender sensitivity on our part?

Lack of Role Models on the Female Gender:- Honestly in Nigeria, there are some credible women who have made Nigerians proud but yet there are others who have disgraced the female folk like Mrs. Ibru of Oceanic Bank who embezzled over 15 billion naira. Because of this gap, there has been a lot of

criticism on the failures of these women which has ridiculed the female gender and deprived them of positions they would ordinarily been opportune to occupy. Women in Nigeria has not to a very great extent shown that degree of responsibility that will out weigh their male counterpart.

Policy Disconnect:- The long history of women empowerment in the country is not in tandem with the current situation analysis with respect to all the gender issues suffered by majority of women in Nigeria. All efforts through special legislation, state bye-laws and gender specific policies at all levels of government and by the civil society, through networking, have failed to deliver dividends of development to women and men equitably. However, the continued manifestations of the problems highlighted at the sectoral level demand for the adoption of a different and more pragmatic approach to the policy framework as compared to that of the National Policy on Women.

Right Protection: In the absence of an Equal Opportunity Commission in the country, a vibrant legislative structures to protect the rights of women, development opportunities continue to elude women. Worst still, the existing policy documents, including the extant National Policy on women failed to challenge the structure, which continues, to reproduce gender inequality and the overall dis-empowerment of women.

Thus, using a development oriented approach; gender inequality is no longer seen only in human rights terms, but also as a cost to the development process.

Global Goals and Commitment

New development imperatives continue to support the goal of gender equality, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and the African Union Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality. Broad and systematic changes are therefore required to transform the institutional policy processes in such a way that they become gender sensitive and reproductive. A new National Gender Policy is therefore required to chart the way for this institutional change, and social transformation amendable to the principle of gender equality. A major challenge now is how to integrate the principle of gender awareness, sensitivity and responsiveness within the MDGs and other regional and global instruments into the extant national macro-policies such that gender equality becomes more than just the concerns of women and the few gender-sensitive institutions and people but becomes part of the goals of governance at all levels and within the populace.

Policy Direction and Gender Conceptualization

Other challenges in defining a gender policy that will have direct effect on overall development goals as well as gender justice are reconceptualizing gender

ideologies, especially gender equality, not only from the context of legal equality and human or women;s rights, but within a broad development context. This has led to the retooling of development frameworks that would fit into the expression of gender equality and gender equity. Hence, this has placed gender relations within macro-economic policy concerns, especially with the realization that the power relation between women and men are critical economic growth outcomes. Therefore, the purpose of the gender policy is to bring a gender perspective into all aspects of planning policy, developing legislation and transformation activities in Nigeria. Thus, the gender policy addresses the systematic inequalities between women and men in our society without ignoring the fundamental difference between them. More importantly, the gender policy priorities the empowerment of women as an entry point to achieving gender equality, and seeks balance of power relation between men and women for the optimum benefit of both parties.

The main constraints that affect women's access to credit has to do with policies and regulatory environment under which credit institutions operate and other environment induced limitations of the women. These include:

Lack of Information Concerning the Conditionality of Credit Programmes:- A great number of women do not know where to go or who to meet for assistance the main.

Tradition and Discriminatory Customs:- Prevalent in most parts of the country deny women any inheritance in landed property etc.

Requirement for Male Guarantors:- Financial Institutions insist on the female mortgagor having a male guarantor for example her husband or son and also immigration demands a letter of undertaking from a woman's spouse before international passport is issued.

Low Income:- Women lack access to higher paying jobs which generally puts them at a disadvantage due to limitations in income

Measures by State are Unproductive

Against this background introduced special financial intervention structures such as the Community Banking Scheme and Peoples' bank to cater for the interests of the poor members of the society. However, information obtained from the People's bank reveals that 70% of the beneficiaries under its credit services are women, but the Bank has the practice of disbursing loans to women through their husbands claiming the illiteracy of most women as an excuse instead of educating them in Credit Management.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Research and Political Activism:- This is highly essential to furthering an agenda of change that brings together social justice and erotic justice.

Parents can also do a variety of things to help reduce the impact that gender stereotypes can have on their children. Parents should make an effort to expose boys as well as girls to areas of life that are perceived to be for boys only.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Towards States

- Continue legislative reforms at national level in order to align the entire legal instrument with the standards recognized in CEDAW and the Protocol to the ACHPR relating to women's rights in Africa;
- Reinforce the integration of women's rights in policy, plan, programme, and budget adoption processes;
- Building dialogue with various stakeholders and social forces on the field to create a better understanding of women's rights;
- At an appropriate decision-making level, set up and develop a mechanism for the coordination of the action of various stakeholders involved in the implementation of women's rights and gender equality;
- Reinforce men's participation in actions and programmes for the effective implementation of women's rights.

Towards Civil Society Organizations:

- Get organized so that the funds allocated for the follow-up of the policy, programme, plan and budget relating to women's rights implementation should be effectively and efficiently used;
- Engage in capacity building of women's rights organization to undertake advocacy for better consideration of women's rights in policies, programmes, plans and budgets by integrating women's rights and monitor the implementation of these policies, programme, plans and budgets;
- Intensify information, advocacy and capacity building actions towards policy-makers and technicians at national and local levels for a better integration of women's rights in decisions and actions that they take;
- Develop a peer review mechanism for women NGOs and develop their organizations as well as their capacities in order to build a culture of African feminist women organization and improve their performance on the ground.
- Develop leadership programmes for the youth in order to take over the movement of African women.

Towards Development Partners

- Ensure the integration of women's rights in sustainable policies, programmes and plans as well as the allocation of development aid to the implementation of issues relating to gender equality in accordance with commitments made for the financing of development and namely in the programme of Action adopted at the Accra Forum on the review of the implementation of the Paris Declaration on aid effectiveness held in September 2008.
- Reinforce the support of women organizations and networks to enable them have adequate resources for their actions in the field of women's rights implementation.

SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATION

In view of the progress achieved, challenges and emerging issues, future actions should be focused on the following priority areas:

- Right to education
- Right to participate in political and public decision-making;
- Violence against women;
- Right to access to resources;
- Right of women to access to basic social services;
- Ensure the effective allocation of resources to women's rights issues incorporated in policies, plans and programmes.
- Community childcare to give women greater opportunities to seek employment;
- Support parents with the care cost (e.g. South African child/disability grants);
- Education stipends for girls (e.g. Bangladesh's Girls education Stipend scheme);
- Awareness-raising regarding gender-based violence, and other preventive measures, such as financial support for women and children escaping abusive environments (e.g. NGO pilot initiatives in Ghana);
- Inclusion of programme participants (women and men) in designing and evaluating social protection programmes;
- Gender-awareness and analysis training for programme staff;
- Collect and distribute information on coordinated care and service facilities (e.g. access to micro-credit and micro entrepreneurial training for women); and
- Developing monitoring and evaluation systems that include sex-disaggregated data.

CONCLUSION

It is very glaring from this discourse that sexual politics in Nigeria is a threat to the future of Nigerian women. It is not an isolated phenomenon rather it is an outcome of multitude of cultural and traditional sectors. These cultures could be neglected by pragmatic courts and policy formulators like Nigeria

legislators in making laws to protect the female gender thereby reducing gender bias.

In contemporary patriarchies the male's de jure priority has recently been modified through the granting of divorce protection, citizenship, and property to women. Their chattel status continues in their loss of name, their obligation to adopt the husband's domicile, and the general legal assumption that marriage involves an exchange of the female's domestic service and (sexual) consortium in return for financial support. Nigeria should also adopt the same approach for equality to reign supreme.

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