

© Kamla-Raj 2006

PRINT: ISSN 0971-8923 ONLINE: ISSN 2456-6756

J. Soc. Sci., 12(3): 163-170 (2006)

DOI: 10.31901/24566756.2006/12.02.02

Gender Constraints in the Training of Women Traders in South Eastern Nigeria: A Case Study of Onitsha Main Market

N.G.Egbue

Nnamdi Azikiwe University, P.M.B 5025, Awka, Anambra-State, Nigeria

E-mail: ngegbue@yahoo.com

KEYWORDS Gender constraints; training; social structure

ABSTRACT Low participation rate in existing skill acquisition opportunities increasingly features as a major constraint in women's contribution to socio-economic development especially in developing countries. In consideration of this situation, this paper examines work related gender role allocations and segregations and their impact upon women's acquisition of trading skills. Within this context, the study focuses on the extent of women's use of a notable indigenous apprenticeship system as preparation for trading. On the basis of an empirical investigation, conducted in 2002, attention is directed at women's participation in some female fashion enterprises in Onitsha Main Market. Data obtained from this investigation serves to highlight the intricacies of the interaction between socio-structural and choice factors in women's utilization of apparent opportunities. This paper concludes by suggesting ways of upgrading women's participation in apprenticeship as an important channel for improving women's medium scale trading enterprises.