

The Status of Women, Sex Preference, Decision-Making and Fertility Control in Ekpoma Community of Nigeria

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ABSTRACT This study examined gender relationship and how this affect sex preference and decision-making in the home with particular reference to fertility in Nigeria .The small university community of Ekpoma was used as the case study. In this locality, seven hundred households were randomly selected for the study with larger concentration of educated respondents. The questionnaire and focus group discussion were employed to elicit information from respondents. The simple percentage was employed in data management. The findings revealed that the level of education notwithstanding, people are still holding to tradition and customs in matters affecting gender. These attitudes are influenced by the never changing inheritance pattern, supremacy of the patriarchal system and the love for tradition. Most disturbing is that women don't seem to see any thing wrong with the situation. The researchers therefore concluded that women empowerment when encouraged will not only affect women's autonomy but also will increase their worth, participation in family decision-making including reproductive decisions and reduce the preference for a particular sex by couples. All these will have implications for fertility control programmes in Nigeria.