

Female Participation in Information, Communication and Technological Development in Nigeria: Implications for Early Career Guidance

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ABSTRACT The issue of women and their participation in development has been on the international agenda since the Paris peace conference of 1919, sequel to the universal declaration of human rights in 1948 and international women's year in 1975. This study delved into the level of participation of women in the technological development of their country, Nigeria. A cross section of working class women in various establishments in Benin City, South-South Nigeria was sampled. Altogether, two hundred (200) women were randomly selected for the study. A questionnaire tagged "Female Participation in Technological Development" was administered to the women. Their responses were collated and analyzed using frequency count and simple percentages. In addition, focus group discussions were conducted with selected groups of working class women. Content analysis was used to analyze the data. Data analysis showed that quite a large number of women (80%) were interested in ICT but only 60.67% had access to it. The constraints were time, gender roles, work-life imbalance and inadequate training and empowerment. There is need to develop a training program for the interested women and enlightenment seminars for other women and prospective working class females in the tertiary and secondary educational institutions. This is to ensure full participation of women in ICT, which will in turn ensure improved technological development in Nigeria as a country in a globalize world.