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Gender Role Differentiation and Social Mobility of Women in Nigeria

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ABSTRACT The paper examines gender role differentiation and its effect on the trend and pattern of social mobility of women in Nigeria. Although biological categorisation of humans is vital, in reality, it is the culturally constructed gender differentiation into masculinity and femininity that is most fundamental in defining what role males and females play in society. The roles males play are highly valued and rewarded than that of females. This division of roles along gender lines place women in underprivileged position in terms of power, prestige and wealth. The paper argues that gender role differentiation negatively restricts the life chances of women thus, affecting their mobility pattern. However, changing institutional arrangements tend to alter social mobility in favour of women in contemporary Nigerian society.