

# **SCALING INCLEMENT HURDLES IN THE SHADOW OF MEN: THE IMPERATIVE OF WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN NIGERIA**

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## **Abstract**

The issue of women empowerment in development is a major national and international policy discourse. This paper examines the gendered nature of our society as it affects women empowerment. The role women play in the civil society, their limitations and some efforts of the previous governments, in alleviating these problems are examined. It also attempts to highlight a number of international declarations and agreements concerning women's rights to equal status in many aspect of life. The paper notes that the nation has either unconsciously or logistically marginalized a formidable part of our population to our own peril. The paper critically identifies major obstacles affecting women empowerment in political, social and economic advancement as well as in the planning and implementation of gender programmes in our society. It illustrates that though there has been an increase in the number of women in position of leadership since 1999, the number of women in politics compared to men is just 7%. In addressing these problems, the paper explains the need to adopt several identified opportunities to women for integration in national political development. The paper however, concludes that there must be serious challenges to create full citizenship for women and responsive economic, social and political democracy for all and it is expected that eyes will be opened and drummed home to use to potential force that women represent in nation building.

**Keywords:** Female, Gender Stereotype, Political Empowerment, Women Empowerment,