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Abstract
This study investigated the Nigerians’ attitude towards women in science and technology based artisan jobs as a factor in mainstreaming girls into science, technology and mathematics education. In carrying out this study, Questionnaire on People Attitudes towards Women in Science and Technology Artisan Jobs (QPATWSTAJ) was developed to collect necessary data. Data collected were analysed using simple percentage, mean, and T-test analytical tools. The results of the study show that people have negative attitude toward women in science and technology based artisan jobs; however, the level of educational attainment and marital status do not influence the society’ attitude towards women in science and technology based artisan jobs but gender has a significant influence. It was recommended among others that government should organise special educational programmes, awareness and sensitization campaigns, seminars and conference at national, state and local government levels aimed at changing the negative attitude of the people towards women in science and technology based artisan jobs so as to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

Key words: Nigerians’ attitude, women, science and technology, artisan, job

Introduction
Artisans are very clever people who frequently use their talents to excel in the fields of mathematics, engineering, computer programming, the fine arts, literature, or quantum physics. In fact, in the school of Philosophy, it was an Artisan who invented the idea of democracy (Bankole, 2008). Artisans often possess an inventive, make-the-most-of-what’s-available style of creativity that allows them to create remarkable things out of a limited amount of resources.

Artisans can be equally content as master carpenters, auto mechanics, or in one of the other technical fields. In the arena of sports, it is also not surprising to discover many great baseball players are Artisans; the geometric principle of the game seems to fascinate them. On an introspective level, Artisans are often prone to moodiness, and if pushed to the edge, can be the craziest of all the roles. Artisans literally influence the ambient area around them, and it seems their creative energy is not only
contained to their inner worlds, but to the outer one as well.

Physically, Artisans are often described as being "cute" and typically have soft-round faces. In his book, "The Journey of Your Soul," author Shepherd (2008) describes Artisan females as "adorable or beautiful in a Marilyn Monroe kind of way," and males are described as being the stereotypical "pretty boy," rather than the more "roughhewn" kind of male often associated with the role of the Warrior.

It has been well documented that inequities in political power, distribution of income, capital assets, and access to education and information have resulted in the increased susceptibility of women to chronic poverty (Aina, 2011). In some cultures, this is exacerbated by the fact that women do not always have control of their earned income or they occupy positions in the unpaid economy (e.g. subsistence agriculture, domestic work). They are not being respected and recognized in the areas where they compete with men in the workplace especially in science and technology base jobs (Labonne, 2006).

According to Dayton (2009), women's responsibilities in mineral processing activities range from crushing, grinding, sieving, washing and panning, to amalgamation and amalgam decomposition in the case of gold mining. Less commonly, women are concession owners, mine operators, dealers and buying agents, and equipment owners. In many locales, women function in multiple capacities. Despite the diverse and important roles undertaken by women in artisan jobs, the positions of their jobs have often been overlooked.

Globally, women and girls are underrepresented in virtually all sectors of development including education employment opportunities, despite the fact that one of the Millennium Development Goals focused on promoting gender equality and women empowerment.

Gender specification has become a major phenomenon in workplace in the recent time. Gender issues are embedded in and emanated from discrimination which remains pervasive in many aspect of life worldwide (Maduewesi, 2005). Women perceive that they are often sexually discriminated against when deciding who receives a job, promotion or other employment benefits. Nwana (2007) and Madaabun as cited in Okeke (2000) were of the view that female are grossly underrepresented in the field of Science, Technology and Mathematics in Nigeria.

Hornby (2004) defines woman as an adult female human being. While Esan (2013), sees a woman as a female who has developed in age, knowledge and experience over a period of time. However, society has placed the role of second fiddle on women in the recent time. According to Streisand (2000), men are allowed to have passion and commitment for their work.... a woman is allowed to have feeling for a man, but not for her work.

Gender stereotype is a tendency to have a fixed set of ideas about the roles, attributes or characteristics of a particular set of persons, which is often wrongly generalized to be true in all cases. Kanno (2003) feels that it could be a fixed belief on issues or a mode of life. In another perspective, he defines stereotypes as the process of attributing certain factors or traits positively or otherwise to a particular group of individuals. Wilde (2007) sees women as decorative sex, yet women have excelled in every works of life.

However, Gabe (2000) opined that men decided a few centuries ago that any job they found repulsive was "women's work" and that jobs that requires thinking, technology and science should be reserved for men. Science and
technology based artisan jobs fall into the category that the society seems to have tagged as "men's job". Consequently there are very few women in science and technology occupations. Women employment is heavily concentrated on a few occupations where they work in homes or in the farms as helpers, as nurses, as care givers, as teachers and as computer assistance. Gender difference in science and technology enrollments, achievement and employment worldwide has been established (Aguosu, 1990 and Nepa, 2008).

Women's full participation in science and technology artisan jobs is an economic imperative, because according to Nyerere as cited in Ogunjobi (2008) "no one can walk far or fast with only one leg". Women constitute about 51% of the Nigerian population, therefore it is not possible to ignore or neglect their scientific potentials, if the nation is to achieve a sustainable economic development and also achieve the millennium development goals (Ogunjobi, 2008).

According to Nnaka and Ezekanuagha, (2013) few Nigerian women have proved their worth and potentials in areas that are critical in national development. For instance, Sandra, the first female auto mechanic in Nigeria ventured into the field at the tender age of 10. She sees the need to train other female children for a better future, having passed through gender barrier at 10 as a mechanic, which is a male-dominated area. She has been in the practice of engineering and auto machine for the past 29 years and according to Dailysun, (2013) over 400 girls who graduated from Lady Mechanic Initiative (LMI); a non-governmental organization under her tutelage are gainfully employed. It is evident that women can perform very well in science and technology related artisan jobs as their careers because women have the natural talent to develop themselves if the environment is favourable enough to motivate them. To Lavoie, a first-timer Canadian in Nigeria said that she saw great potential in Nigerian women and also believed that with right skill and mentorship, a woman can do anything she sets her mind to do (Dailysun, 2013).

Unfortunately, many occupational restrictions placed on women's ambition and aspirations are directly related to long standing beliefs embedded in the physiological differences between the sexes and as a result, the entry of women into previously dominated by men has received mixed reactions from Nigerians (Nnaka, et.al., 2013). Hence, the need to investigate the people's attitude towards women in science and technology based artisan jobs if the nation is to achieve sustainable economic development and would ever achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

Nnaka, et al., (2013) had carried out a similar study in Anambra, a state located in the Eastern part of Nigeria. The researcher saw the need to replicate the study in the Western part of the country especially in Lagos State because, Lagos is Nigeria's financial, commercial and industrial nerve centre with over 2,000 manufacturing industries and over 200 financial institutions. The State alone harbours 60% of the Federation's total industrial investments and foreign trade while also attracting 65% of Nigeria's commercial activities. It also accounts for more than 40% of all labour emoluments paid in the country.

It is against this background that this study examines the people's attitude towards women in science and technology based artisan jobs.

Statement of the Problem
Mainstreaming girls into science technology and mathematical education has been improving gradually in Nigeria education. This is evident in
the number of girls who seek admission into universities in this field yearly. However, girls who are involved in male dominated jobs are often looked down upon by some people. This is as a result of the role that the society placed on gender specification as regards jobs. Specific development policies aimed at women’s education in science and technology and also fairness in job participation have been largely ineffective in the country. Unhealthy state controlled developmentalism has indeed help to erode independent feminist initiative ever geared towards women emancipation in our society (Tskata, 2007).

Several studies have been conducted towards women participation in science and technology, but not much has been done to establish the kind of attitude people have towards women in science and technology based jobs. It is on this basis that the researcher deemed it fit to investigate the people’s current attitude towards women in science and technology based jobs in Nigeria and Lagos State in particular.

Research Question
What is the attitude of people towards women in science and technology based jobs?

Hypotheses
The following hypotheses guided the study:
1. There is no significant difference between the mean attitude scores of male and female respondents towards women in science and technology based artisan jobs.
2. There is no significant difference between the mean attitude scores of those who attended higher institutions and those who have not, towards women in science and technology based artisan jobs.
3. There is no significant difference between the mean attitude scores of married and single respondents towards women in science and technology based artisan jobs.

Methodology
The study adopted descriptive survey research design since the researcher has no direct control over the independent variables in the study. The population of this study consists of all adults in Lagos Metropolis. 200 people participated in the study. Necessary data were collected using a 16-item structured Questionnaire on People’s Attitudes toward Women in Science and Technology Artisan Jobs (QPAWSTAT). The instrument was a modified version of the one used by earlier researchers (Nnaka et al., 2013). The questionnaire has two sections; section (A) deals with the bio-data of the respondents while section (B) consists of structured statement meant to provide answers to the research question on a four point scale. Three research experts in items construction validated the instrument and their suggestions and corrections were considered in the final draft. The instrument was also found to be reliable (0.52) using Cronbach Alpha. The researcher personally administered the instrument and also informed the prospective respondents about the study before administering the questionnaire and asked them to be realistic in the response given as there would be no right or wrong answers.

Data collected were analyzed using descriptive statistics i.e. mean and standard deviation. A mean of 2.50 and above indicated that the respondent have negative attitude while a mean of 2.49 and below indicated that the respondents have positive attitude. The hypotheses formulated were analyzed using T-test statistical tool at 0.05 alpha level.

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Results and Discussion

Table 1: Bio data Information of the Respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Items</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marital status</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational Qualification</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCE - BSC</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M.Sc</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1 shows that half of the respondents are female representing 50% of the total respondents while the male constitute also 50% of the total respondents. It also shows that 85% of the respondents are married while 15% of them are single parent. 65% of the respondents have either primary or both primary and secondary education while 35% of the population has educational qualification between NCE to PhD.

Research Question 1: What is the attitude of people towards women in science and technology based jobs?
Table 2: Attitude of People towards Women in S&T Artisan Jobs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SN</th>
<th>Items</th>
<th>With Higher Education</th>
<th>Without Higher Education</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Male (X, SD)</td>
<td>Female (X, SD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>S&amp;T based artisan job is laborious and should be left for men who are strong</td>
<td>3.54 (0.71)</td>
<td>2.72 (0.81)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>S&amp;T artisan jobs entail a lot of travelling which is not healthy for women</td>
<td>3.11 (0.62)</td>
<td>2.62 (1.22)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>S&amp;T would undermine family stability and foster high rate of divorce</td>
<td>2.12 (1.21)</td>
<td>2.42 (0.81)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Women gain higher status and prestige through their husband sons and daughter and not through what they do.</td>
<td>2.43 (1.01)</td>
<td>2.83 (0.71)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Women in S&amp;T artisan job have male qualities that are incompatible with motherhood</td>
<td>2.34 (0.62)</td>
<td>2.42 (1.23)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Women in S&amp;T based artisan jobs share time with various men and this can affect their marital lives</td>
<td>2.50 (0.92)</td>
<td>2.43 (0.53)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Women cannot meet their occupational requirement and entrepreneurship skills of S&amp;T artisan job</td>
<td>2.14 (1.33)</td>
<td>2.52 (0.93)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Women in S&amp;T based artisan jobs cannot compete with the men in the field</td>
<td>2.12 (0.52)</td>
<td>2.33 (0.52)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Women in S&amp;T artisan jobs do not have technical know-how like men</td>
<td>2.33 (0.92)</td>
<td>2.42 (0.93)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>It is odd and ill advice for women to go into male dominated jobs</td>
<td>2.90 (0.43)</td>
<td>2.53 (0.52)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Women have limited career in S&amp;T artisan jobs due to dual roles in the homes and offices</td>
<td>3.24 (0.62)</td>
<td>3.52 (0.53)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>If a woman is engaged in S&amp;T artisan job, she loses that respect to be addressed as Lady</td>
<td>2.92 (0.92)</td>
<td>2.63 (0.92)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>People frown at female and male competition and interaction at work</td>
<td>2.92 (0.42)</td>
<td>2.82 (0.83)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Women should adhere to traditional feminine jobs and occupation to make them good wives and house maker</td>
<td>2.42 (0.93)</td>
<td>3.13 (0.72)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>S&amp;T artisan jobs are full of unusual health hazards hence, not good for women</td>
<td>2.53 (0.62)</td>
<td>2.52 (0.73)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Women in S&amp;T artisan jobs rely on men to succeed in their jobs</td>
<td>3.24 (1.03)</td>
<td>2.53 (0.83)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2 revealed that the mean rating of virtually all the items by the respondents were above the cut-off point of 2.50, this implies that all the respondents have negative attitude towards women in S&T based artisan jobs.
Hypothesis 1: There is no significant difference between the mean attitude scores of male and female respondents towards women in Science and Technology based artisan jobs.

Table 3: T-Test Analysis of effects of gender on the people responses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>X</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>Df</th>
<th>t-cal</th>
<th>t-tab</th>
<th>s</th>
<th>Remark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>2.46</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>2.46</td>
<td>1.96</td>
<td></td>
<td>Significant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>2.75</td>
<td>1.34</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3 shows that t-calculated is 2.46 as against 1.96 t-critical, therefore t-calculated is greater than t-critical hence the null hypothesis is rejected. This implies that there is a significant difference between the male and female responses on society's attitude towards women in S&T based jobs. Hence, the null hypothesis is rejected.

Hypothesis 2: There is no significant influence of education attainment level on people attitude towards women in science and technology based artisan job.

Table 4: T-Test Analysis of Effect of Educational Attainment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>X</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>Df</th>
<th>t-cal</th>
<th>t-tab</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Higher Education</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>2.64</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>0.129</td>
<td>1.96</td>
<td>Not significant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Higher Edu.</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>2.88</td>
<td>1.01</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The table 4 shows that t-calculated is 0.129 as against t-tab, therefore t-calculated is less than t-critical hence the null hypothesis is accepted. The educational level of the respondents has no significant difference on people attitude towards women in S&T based artisan occupation.

Hypothesis 3: There is no significant influence of marital status on people attitude towards women in science and technology based artisan job.

Table 5: T-Test Analysis of effect of Marital Status.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>X</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>Df</th>
<th>t-cal</th>
<th>t-tab</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>2.69</td>
<td>0.65</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>0.117</td>
<td>1.96</td>
<td>Not significant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>2.96</td>
<td>1.21</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The table 5 shows that t-calculated is 0.117 against t-tab which is 1.96, therefore t-calculated is less than t-critical; hence the null hypothesis is accepted. The marital status of the respondents has no significant difference on people attitude towards women in S&T based artisan occupation.

Discussion of Findings
From table 2, it was found that people have a negative attitude towards women in science and technology based jobs. This is in agreement with Nhaka et al., (2013) who found out that people from eastern part of Nigeria have negative attitude towards women in science and artisan based jobs. Fratzgeral and Critas (2011) also observed that the social role of women have changed very rapidly during the past decade but that, the corresponding societal attitudes have simply not kept pace is very true of present day Nigeria. This lag in attitudinal change has constituted great obstacles to women choosing traditional perceived male occupations. Even though open discrimination against women no longer exists, the fact that items 1, 2, 4, 11, 13 and 15 have very high mean scores shows that society still believe that women cannot perform well like men in science and technology based artisan jobs. However, this finding contradicts that of Dee (2006) and Smith (2004) who found that a larger number of people are stunned and delighted when they see women in science and technology based jobs.

From table 3, it was revealed that gender has significant influence on the people’s attitude. This finding is contrary to that of Nhaka et al., (2013) who reported no significant effect of gender. It should be noted that female conviction that they can take up these artisan jobs may not necessarily be as a result of the popular African adage that says “what a man can do, a woman can do better” but it may due to the level of awareness that women like Sandra the lady mechanic has created through her achievements and NGO that is, Lady Mechanic Initiative located in Lekki, Lagos State (Dailysun, 2013). However, this result negates their attributes to child bearing practices, cultural beliefs and level of indoctrination that women are weak and should not be exposed to strenuous jobs. This finding is in agreement with Odedeyi and Alako (2007) who found that “women are now taking over men’s jobs in politics, science and technology; and now, information communication and technology’.

From table 4, it was found that there is no significant influence of education attainment level on people’s attitude towards women in science and technology based artisan job. This means that educated people are not less sensitive to seeing women in science and technology based artisan jobs. This implies that both educated and those who are not educated are of the view that men are more suited for jobs in science and technology based artisan jobs. This contradicts the findings of Anummu (2007) that the more educated a parent is, the more he or she sees that female children also have the same opportunity to succeed as male in science and technology based jobs.

From table 5, it was found that there is no significant influence of marital status on society’s attitude towards women in science and technology based jobs. However, this contradicts the finding of Olagunju (2006) who observed that more girls than it used to, are now going for science and technology based artisan jobs as against their parents’ wishes because they believe that they would be successful even though their parents are not convinced.

Conclusion
This study examined the people attitude towards women in science and technology artisan jobs and concludes that Nigerians still have a
negative attitude towards women in S&T based artisan jobs, even regardless of their level of education and marital status. However, female respondents have a better view of the Nigeria and global situation by not discouraging their girls from going into science and technology based fields.

Based on the findings of this study, it is recommended that Government should organise special educational programmes, awareness and sensitization campaigns, seminars and conferences at national, state and local government levels aimed at changing the negative attitude of the society towards women in science and technology based artisan jobs. People should also cultivate the habit of showing women that are making indelible marks and impact in science and technology based artisan jobs so that girls can take a cue from them. More also, mass media such as newspapers, radio and television stations should endeavour to project and display female role models who have excelled in S&T based artisan jobs as parts of their educational programmes in order to enlightening the people in the society and probably change their negative attitude.

References


