

# **WOMEN AND POLITICS IN NIGERIA: IMPACT OF INCOME AND EDUCATION ON WOMEN POLITICAL PARTICIPATION**

**By**

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## **Abstract**

The conceptual and material bases of women's historic exclusion from the formal arena of politics have generated a great deal of interest among feminists, academics and policy makers in Nigeria. Several studies have addressed the factors that hinder the creation of an enabling environment for women's political empowerment. However, despite the rapidly growing literature, the debate concerning the role played by the macro-national variables, such as the design of state institutions, micro-level influences (such as income, status and education) and meso-level variables, particularly social networks in enhancing women political participation is far from settled. This paper sets out to examine the impact of micro-level factors such as income, status and education on women political participation in Nigeria. This is a micro-level empirical study confined to urban women in Lagos, South Western Nigeria. The data used were collected between June and August, 2006. The data were analyzed using frequency tables, simple cross tabulation and chi-squares techniques. Empirical results show that income and education are important variables that determine the behaviour and pattern of political participation among women. Based on the findings, the paper outlines possible strategies for women's political empowerment with a view to promoting their effective participation in the country's decision-making process.