Editor-in-Chief: Prof. Alaba Ogunsanwo
Managing Editor: Tunde Babawale
Editorial Assistants: Dr. Samuel Ugoh & Ronke Karunwi

Editorial Board

Professor Adigun Agbaje
Department of Political Science
University of Ibadan
Oyo State

Professor L. Adele Jinadu
Centre for Advanced Social Science (CASS), Port Harcourt
Rivers State.

Professor Nuhu Yaqub
University of Abuja
Abuja.

Professor G. Aforaka Nweke
Department of Political Science
University of Nigeria

Dr. Ayo Akinbobola
Department of Political Science
University of Lagos.

Professor Amadu Sesay
Department of International Relations
Obafemi Awolowo University
Ile-Ife, Oyo State.

Professor Robert Ola
Adekunle Ajasin University
Akungba-Akoko
Ondo State

Professor Aaron Gana
African Centre for Democratic Governance (AfriGov), Abuja.

Professor Siyanbola Toromi
Department of Economics
University of Lagos.

Dr. Remi Anifowose
Department of Political Science
University of Lagos.

Information for Contributors

The *UNILAG Journal of Politics* is a biannual journal in political science research. It however welcomes multidisciplinary contributions, which focus on the military, technological and social issues that impact on human existence and survival.

The journal hopes to contribute to the universal struggle for justice, equity and establishment of a world of harmony and peace. In particular, it invites contributions on issues that affect the development/underdevelopment of the African continent.

Correspondence

Articles for submission should be sent to Professor Alaba Ogunsanwo, Editor-in-Chief, *UNILAG Journal of Politics*, Department of Political Science, University of Lagos, Akoka, Yaba, Lagos, Nigeria, (01) 5454891-3 (ext. 1307 & 1304). Information regarding subscription should be addressed to:
Women Participation in Nigeria’s Democratization Process: Some Socio-Economic Considerations

RISIKAT OLABOYIN S. DAUDA (Ph.D.)
Department of Economics, University of Lagos, Akoka

Abstract

The relative importance of women as positive contributors to economic development has long been recognized. The United Nations has been pioneering the mainstreaming of gender perspective into development planning and integrating the role of women in development at the level of national government of all member-states. However, progress made so far leaves much to be desired. The majority of the women, particularly in African countries, face various forms of systemic and structural discrimination, which inhibit the drive towards personal empowerment. Women are disadvantaged in the sphere of decision-making, be it political, economic or social. The main objective of this paper is to examine the socio-economic factors influencing women's participation in the democratization process in Nigeria. The paper provides an overview of the profile of Nigerian women and underscores the crucial role of women in social, economic and political development and nation building. It identifies 'femocracy', poverty, discriminatory social practices and discriminatory laws, gender-blind policy environment that promotes gender disparity in education, health care and the decision-making process, as significant factors which hinder women's participation at all levels of governance and in the current democratic experiment. The paper highlights the implications of the continued exclusion of women from the political scene and governance. It recommends policy measures to enhance the political status of women as well as facilitate the creation of a democratic space for Nigerian women.