



CHALLENGES OF GENDER EQUALITY ADMINISTRATION IN NIGERIA

Gender Mainstreaming Policies for Government Officials, 19th June-
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Situational Analysis

- ▣ Achieving gender equal society requires the existence of favourable legal, institutional and policy framework
 - Federal Ministry for Women Affairs and National Centre for Women Development
 - National Gender Policy
- ▣ However No any legal instrument that promotes gender equality- CEDAW and African Protocol for Women's Human Rights have not been passed into law

Situational Analysis

- Poor Devt indicators and corruption
- Diversity in religion and ethnicity, Thus gender issues politised along such lines eg the expansion of Islamic legal system
- Regional differences.
 - Political structure: Semi Autonomous Federating Units
 - Unit have own laws and policies and some issues restricted to states and LGAs only eg marital and family

- ▣ Example: The Child Rights Acts passed by the National Assembly in 2003 is yet to be endorsed by the northern states' legislatures
- ▣ "We are disturbed by the trend of using teenage girls as domestic helps which is a form of child labour and we are aware of the provision in the Child Rights Act that deals with that issue. However we can't endorse the Act because of certain clauses that are in conflict with our religious and cultural values". (Speaker of State House of Assembly, 13th Jul 08

- ▣ With the politisation of gender issues by the political elites addressing such issues is very difficult.
- ▣ Many Trainings for the female assembly members to no effect because of the dirtiness in politics- loyalty is to a political godfather or group who sponsors.
- ▣ The need to mobilise the grass-roots.

Knowledge gained and Lessons Learnt

- Consultation and Grassroots participation eg the process in the establishment of KFAW
- The inclusive nature of the project for the achievement of Gender Equality
- The Gender Equality Centre having programmes for men, women and children

Establishment of Women's Forum in a Local Government Council

- ▣ Objective: To create a forum where every woman of Gaya can articulate and make her voice heard

Reasons

- ▣ There is no institutional mechanism where and how women can voice their views over government policy, community matters or service delivery.
- ▣ There is already an existing structure and programme to be used- WDC and JICA project

Outcome

- Women able to champion a gender issue or
- make demand to their local representative/
community
- Women's views integrated into Local Government
Authority policies and programmes
- Improvement in social service delivery as women
demand accountability from service providers
- A stepping stone for women's participation in the
community political affairs

▣ Thank you

