



Gender Justice and Legal Empowerment in Rural Nigeria: An Analysis

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Abstract

Rural Nigeria faces significant challenges in gender justice and legal empowerment due to socio-cultural barriers and limited access to legal services. The study employed qualitative research methods including interviews with legal practitioners, community leaders, and gender activists. Data were analysed using thematic content analysis to identify themes related to legal awareness and access. Findings indicate that while there is a growing interest in women's rights advocacy, the implementation of judicial support programmes remains inconsistent due to resource constraints and cultural resistance. Legal empowerment initiatives have shown promise but require more sustainable funding and culturally sensitive approaches to effectively address gender justice issues in rural settings. Policy makers should prioritise the allocation of resources for legal education and community outreach programmes, while encouraging local leaders to champion gender equality within their communities.

Keywords: *African Geography, Gender Studies, Empowerment Theory, Legal Anthropology, Rural Development, Socio-Legal Frameworks, Indigenous Knowledge Systems*

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