



Gender Dynamics in Nigerian Political Transitions: Analysing Power Imbalances and Their Implications for Societal Reforms

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Abstract

Gender dynamics have played a significant role in Nigerian political transitions, affecting societal reforms and power imbalances within families. A combination of qualitative interviews with policymakers, quantitative data analysis of election results, and case studies from recent Nigerian political changes were employed to examine gender dynamics across different periods. Recent research highlights a notable increase (30%) in female representation in local government positions during the last decade, reflecting broader societal shifts towards greater inclusivity but also revealing persistent challenges related to entrenched patriarchal structures within families and governance systems. The findings suggest that while there have been some advancements in gender equality, traditional power hierarchies continue to influence women's participation in political processes and their roles within the family unit. Policy recommendations include fostering culturally sensitive education programmes on gender equality, strengthening legal protections for female leaders, and promoting inclusive governance structures that value diverse perspectives.

Keywords: *African geopolitics, gender studies, power asymmetries, feminist theory, qualitative analysis, social norms, political sociology*

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