

UNDERSTANDING

ALUKO, Yetunde Adebunmi, (PhD)

*Social and Governance Policy Research Department
Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research (NISER)*

ABSTRACT

The relationship between change in status of women and the existence of patriarchal structures and ideology is particularly difficult to assess in Africa. This paper examined the interface between the status of women in the traditional past and modern day in Nigeria, running from the contradictions inherent in Nigerian patriarchal social structures, to the issue of exogenous cultures like globalization, and its impact on women's status. While there are divergent views between the two sides, the paper argues that global interconnectedness has engendered the global upsurge and change in the status of women in several ways. The experience in Nigeria has been ambivalent. Thus the relationship between the two is examined within the dialectical frameworks of opposite poles. The paper concludes that Nigeria has much to gain in the global network, but has not done much to stimulate the realization of the hopes of women in Nigeria. The gender-biased ideology and male-dominated social structures are still intact, and perhaps, even reinforced. It is critically important for policy-makers to collaborate with women to improve their positions and thereby accelerate Nigeria's development.

Key words: *Change in status, Women in Nigeria, Traditional past, Modernity, Globalization, Colonization*