



**UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA**

***POLITICAL PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN KADUNA STATE, NIGERIA***

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**POLITICAL PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN KADUNA STATE, NIGERIA**

By

**MOHAMMAD ABUBAKAR**

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra  
Malaysia, in Fulfillment of the Requirement for the of Degree of Master of  
Science**

**November 2015**

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Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in  
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## **POLITICAL PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN KADUNA STATE, NIGERIA**

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**MOHAMMED ABUBAKAR**

**November 2015**

**Chairman: Professor Zaid Bin Ahmad, PhD**  
**Faculty : Human Ecology**

Women political participation has become an issue of concern due to current records that are indicating low participation and under representation in both elective and appointive positions in Nigeria. Although, in recent years, research findings and literatures have confirmed that there is an increase in the level of women's participation in the Nigerian politics and the political process, but yet, their participation and representation is still relatively low. This research aimed to look at the women political participation trend in Nigeria and explore some of the factors that influence or encourage women to participate in politics and also to find out some of the obstacles to their political participation in Kaduna state, Nigeria. The research employed qualitative method as its major research technique. In-depth interview was conducted with nine (9) research informants that were being selected from the three (3) central zones of Kaduna State. The collect regarding the trend of women's political participation in Nigeria shows that, women participated actively in politics and in the decision making process in the pre-colonial period, but during the colonial time, the research ascertained that women were denied right to Franchise and that consequently affect their present participation in politics and the political process. Regarding factors that influence or encourage women participation, the data shows that, interest, political awareness and reservation of political position were among the factors that can positively influence women's participation in politics. The research also shows that, Nigerian culture, religion, political violence, socioeconomic status of women were among the obstacles to the women political participation in Kaduna state in particular and Nigeria at large. The research recommends that the government should introduce a special program that will attract women to develop an interest via participating in the country's politics and also special awareness and sensitization campaign on the imperativeness of women's participation should be introduced by the government or other related agencies. The research also recommends that women should be empowered economically through programs that aimed at bridging gaps between female and male. The Nigerian government should find a way through which political violence can be eliminated in Nigerian politics by creating employment opportunities to youth who are mostly used as a tool for political violence.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia  
sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk Ijazah Master Sains

## **WANITA DAN PENYERTAAN POLITIK NEGERI KADUNA, NIGERIA**

Oleh

**MOHAMMAD ABUBAKAR**

**November 2015**

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Penyertaan wanita dalam politik merupakan satu isu yang mendapat perhatian disebabkan oleh rekod semasa yang menunjukkan bahawa penyertaan rendah dan kurang perwakilan dalam kedua-dua jawatan elektif dan autoriti di Nigeria. Walaupun pada tahun-tahun kebelakangan ini, hasil penyelidikan dan kesusasteraan telah mengesahkan bahawa terdapat peningkatan dalam penglibatan wanita dalam politik dan proses politik di Nigeria, tetapi penyertaan dan perwakilan mereka masih lagi di tahap yang rendah. Kajian ini bertujuan untuk melihat kecenderungan penglibatan politik oleh wanita di Nigeria dan meneroka beberapa faktor yang mempengaruhi atau menggalakkan wanita untuk melibatkan diri dalam politik dan juga untuk menyiasat sebahagian daripada halangan kepada penyertaan politik mereka di negeri Kaduna, Nigeria. Kajian dijalankan melalui kaedah kualitatif sebagai teknik penyelidikan utama. Wawancara mendalam telah dijalankan terhadap sembilan (9) peserta penyelidikan yang telah dipilih dari tiga (3) zon senatorial, negeri Kaduna. Berdasarkan maklumat yang telah dikumpul, hasil kajian menunjukkan bahawa wanita telah mengambil bahagian secara aktif dalam politik dan proses membuat keputusan pada zaman pra – colonial lagi, tetapi pada zaman penjajahan, wanita telah dinafikan hak untuk berkembang dan akibatnya, ia menjejaskan penyertaan mereka dalam politik dan proses politik ketika ini. Mengenai faktor yang mempengaruhi atau menggalakkan penyertaan wanita, data menunjukkan bahawa minat, kesedaran dan tempahan kedudukan politik adalah antara faktor positif yang boleh mempengaruhi penglibatan wanita dalam politik. Kajian ini juga menunjukkan bahawa, budaya di Nigeria, agama, keganasan politik dan status sosioekonomi wanita adalah antara halangan kepada penyertaan wanita dalam politik khususnya di negeri Kaduna dan secara amnya di Nigeria. Kajian ini mencadangkan bahawa kerajaan perlu menyediakan program khas untuk menarik minat golongan wanita untuk mengambil bahagian dalam politik di negara ini dan juga mengadakan kempen kesedaran terhadap kepentingan penyertaan wanita dalam politik juga perlu diperkenalkan oleh kerajaan atau agensi-agensi lain yang berkaitan. Selain itu, kajian juga mencadangkan wanita perlu memperkasa tahap ekonomi melalui program-program yang boleh merapatkan jurang perbezaan antara lelaki dan wanita. Kerajaan Nigeria juga perlu mencari jalan untuk menyingkirkan keganasan politik dalam politik

Nigeria dengan menyediakan peluang pekerjaan kepada generasi muda yang kebanyakannya digunakan sebagai alat keganasan politik



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I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on 25 November 2015 to conduct the final examination of Abubakar Mohammed on his thesis entitled "Political Participation of Women in Kaduna State, Nigeria" in accordance with the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971 and the Constitution of the Universiti Putra Malaysia [P.U.(A) 106] 15 March 1998. The Committee recommends that the student be awarded the Master of Science.

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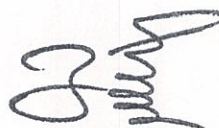
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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CEDAW	Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
DAW	Division for the Advancement of Women
FGN	Federal Republic of Nigeria
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HOS	Head of Service
INEC	Independent National Electoral Commission
LGAs	Local Government Areas
NA	Native Authority
NAPRI	National Animal Production Research Institute
NGO	Non – Governmental Organization
NPC	National Population Commission
PAN	Peugeot Automobile Nigeria
PDP	People Democratic Party
UAC	United African Company Ltd.
UNCEDAW	UN Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission in Africa
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIFEM	UN Development Fund for Women
UNRISD	United Nations Research Institute for Social Development
US	United States
WWGWL	Worldwide Guide to Women in Leadership

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

The introductory part gives the general background of the study, a statement of the problem, research questions, objectives of the study, scope and limitation of the study, the significance of the study, conceptual and operational definition of relevant terms, and organization of the study.

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Political participation is one the tenants of democracy. Dare and Olukemi (2012) observed that, the essence of political participation in any society is to seek control of power or participation in the decision making process. All groups, including that of women seek to influence the dispensation of power in line with their articulated interest as a fundamental motive of political participation. Political participation as a critical component for promoting democracy to attain a high level of development when there is equal participation of different groups, which jointly make up the society. Levin-Waldman (2013) stress that political participation is often said to be the heart of democracy, he further that political participation is a means through which citizens of a given polity use and express their interest, their preferences and needs in a democratic dispensation. Ikeda, Kobayashi, and Hoshimoto (2008) argued that Political participation is essential for democracy to function efficiently and effectively, he further that political participation is an integral to well-functioning democracy.

Political participation is one of the elements that distinguished democracy from other forms of government. In a democratic society, every citizen that fulfilled the requirements for participation stipulated by societal constitution is expected to participate in the political process on an equal basis. Levin-Waldman (2013) argues that, the central to democratic participation is both voice and equality. He further that, democratic society requires every citizen to be autonomous beings. Each person must have equal standing before the law and must have an equal voice in the political system. Karl (1995) maintains that there can be no true democracy, no true participation in governance and development without the equal participation of men and women in all spheres of life and all levels of decision making.

Political participation in electoral process involves much more than just voting, it derives from the freedom to speak out, assemble and associate; the ability to take part in the conduct of public affairs; the opportunity to register as candidate, to campaign for a political position, to be elected and hold political office at all the levels of the government etc. Under the international standard, every qualified member of a polity irrespective of

gender is expected to participate in all aspects of the political processes of his/her society so that to contribute his/her own quota in the decision making process. Government of a given polity often enjoys popular support of its citizens when there is equal participation and political participation opportunities among members that constitute the society, but in the contrary, that will pave way for critics that consequently often lead to the decline of the government. Argues that broad political participation is a core feature of democracy and crucial for its durability and its longibility. In many countries of the world, right to participate in the political process were clearly enshrined in law, and there are no formal barriers to any person in the process of political participation.

In line with the above, the 1999 Nigerian constitution section 40 states that: Every person shall be entitle to assemble freely and associate with other person and in particular he/she may form or belong to a political party, trade union or any other association for the protection of his/her interest provided that the provision of this section shall not derogate from the power conferred by this constitution on the independent National Electoral Commission with respect to political parties to which that the commission does not accord recognition. Section 42 (1) of the same constitution states further that; a citizen of Nigeria of a particular community, ethnic group, place of origin, sex, religion, or political opinion shall not by reason only that person he/she is such a person be subjected to any form of discrimination (FGN 1999).

Women political participation in global politics is one of the contemporary issues of discussion in the political participation arena. Women constitute almost half of the world population, but their participation in decision making and general political processes is relatively low when compared to their male counterpart.

Sbaity Kassem (2012) observed that, low levels of women's representation in elected public offices and gender inequality are a pervasive global phenomenon in politics. Women were underrepresented, discriminated in the global politics. The trend has a very long history as observed by Asmau (2012) "the women in ancient civilization sprang from Europe, Asia, Africa and the world over were no value and are merely regarded as chattels". She further that, "the Encyclopedia Britannica describe the legal status of women in the Roman civilization as completely dependent; and if married her property is passed to her husband. In essence the wife is a purchased property so she is akin to a slave". Janova and Sineau (1992) assert that, in numerous western democracies, suffrage became universal but excluded women. They further that, in the late 1950s all west European women, whether from Latin or Scandinavian countries were in general in the same boat: the narrow door of politics only allowed a tiny minority of women through to participate in the decision-making bodies. The trend remained the same in Nigeria as Agbalajobi (2010) observed that over the years, there has been a raging of debates over the

participation or desire of women in the country's politics. He further that, some argue that, women are regarded as weaker sexes are social constructs owing to social value, norms and beliefs, which have placed them in a subordinate position to men in the nation's political system. In Nigeria, low level of women's participation in the country's politics is disturbing and alarming problem. This phenomenon affects the politics greatly from attaining a high level of recognition at international level and makes the government to face a lot of critics from its citizens.

Afolabi and Lanre (2003) and Agbalajobi (2010) confirmed that; women constitute slightly more than half of the world population. Their contribution to the social and economic development of societies is also more than half as compared to that of men by virtue of their dual roles in the productive and reproductive spheres. Yet their participation in formal political structures and processes, where decisions regarding the use of societal resources generated by both men and women are made, remains insignificant. Presently, women's representation in legislatures around the world is 15 per cent. Despite the pronounced commitment of the international community to gender equality and to the bridging the gender gap in the formal political arena, reinforced by the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Beijing Platform of Action, there are only twelve countries where women hold 33% or more seats in the parliaments (Zwingel, 2005). The situation is same in Nigeria as Agbalajobi (2010) confirmed that, Women in Nigeria constitute about half of the population in the country and are known to play a vital role as mothers, producers, time managers, community organizers and social and political activist. But despite the major roles they play and their population, the society has not given recognition to these and to the fact that they are discriminated against.

The trend in Nigeria like in the globe has a long history and can be classified into three eras, that is, pre-colonial, colonial and post-colonial eras. In Pre-colonial Nigeria, women take part and contributed immensely in the development of social, economic, educational and political spheres of the society. In the pre-colonial Nigeria for instance, women contributed to the sustenance of kin groups. Pre-colonial Nigerian economy was basically at the subsistence level, and Nigerian women participated effectively in this economy. Apart from being mothers and wives and taking charge of the domestic sector, women contributed substantially to the production and distribution of goods and services. Eyinade (2010) observed that, despite being a patriarchal society, Nigeria has a rich history of women breaking out of the mold to participate in politics. He further that, our pre-colonial history is replete with the exploits of Queen Amina of Zaria, who led armies to drive out the invaders from Zaria, and Moremi of Ile-Ife who sacrifices for her people speaks to selfless leadership that we are so bereft of these days.

In the colonial and post-colonial Nigeria, the story has changed in which the participation of women in the colonial and post-colonial period

remained unsatisfactory. In colonial Nigeria, women were denied the franchise and very few of them were offered political and administrative appointments. The women's political participation is even more insignificant in the northern part of the country where the occupants are predominantly Muslims. The women in the northern Nigeria were denied right to partake in any political participation because of the strict Islamic beliefs, they are only considered as house wives (Eyinade (2010).

In post-colonial period the story was slightly different because women were allowed to participate in the political affairs of the society. Eyinade (2010) also observed that, our recent speaks prominent women leaders like Funmilayo Ransome Kuti, a crusader and the scourge of despotic leaders, who lead Egba women on a protest against taxation; Margaret Ekpo, a prominent civil right activist and Iyalode Tinubu of Lagos among others exemplifies the rich participation of women in the economic scane; but yet the participation is still insignificant because in the northern part of Nigeria, women were still denied the right to franchise, as a result, prominent female politician like Hajiya Gambo Sawaba could not vote and be voted for. Until 19 years of independence when the Nigerian constitution guaranteed women's right, generally prohibits any form of discrimination on the basis of sex, and denotes that women have the right to vote from 18 years of age and be voted for; women in northern Nigeria were given the right to franchise and these paved way between 1979 to 1983 for few northern Nigerian women to hold political offices at the both the federal and state levels (Effah-Attoe, 2002).

The military coup by December of 1983 led to the changes in the political structure of Nigeria yet again, when women's participation took other turns as the military once introduced the quota system as regards the appointment of women into government. The Muhammadu Buhari administration directed that at least one female must be appointed as the executive council in every state (Effah-Attoe, 2002). Even the subsequent regime of General Babangida in 1985 did not cater much for women as it simply continued the trend of little representation of women with no women representatives in the federal cabinet.

Nigeria returns to civilian administration on May 29, 1999 after a long period of military dictatorship with a terrain increase of woman's appointment in public offices. For example, a woman emerges as deputy Governor in Lagos state. In the National assembly, there are 3 women emerges as senators out of 109 senate members, while in the House of Representatives, out of 360 members, only 12 women emerged as members. In the state house of assembly, very few women emerged as members. While in some other states, one or two emerged in the houses, most other states have virtually no females in their legislatures. A State like Cross River, Akwa Ibom, Rivers, Lagos and many more others do not have female members in their state legislatures. At the state and the

federal executive councils only few females were happened to be members (Ijim-Agbor, 2007).

Previous research attests that, from colonial up to the present period, very few Nigerian women participated and emerged on Nigeria's landscape in spite of the efforts of pioneering women up to today the number of women participate in Nigerian politics is nearly insignificant (Effah-Attoe, 2002).

This phenomenon (Low women's political participation), call the attention of stakeholders in the field of politics as many political thinkers, researchers and analyst work toward understanding and suggesting way (s) through which this problem can be addressed. Research and analysis of political participation around the world attest that the level of participation of the individual is influenced by some factors such as;

**Socioeconomic Factor:** Verba and Nie (1972) argued that, socioeconomic status is a determiner of individual political participation. They further argued that, individuals with high levels of socioeconomic resources such as education and incomes are more likely to adopt psychological orientations that motivate their participation in the political system. UNIFEM (2010) and DAW (2010) confirmed that, feminists and scholars have observed that the status of women is high in countries with higher GDP per capita. They argue that as the country's GDP per capita rises, the socioeconomic and political situation of women improves as a result of better educational attainment, economic contribution and representation. Nigeria is among the thirty most unequal countries in the world with respect to income distribution. The poorest half of the population holds only 10% of national income. Significant rural-urban differences in income distribution impact, particularly on women, because 54 million of Nigeria's 80.2 million women live and work in rural areas, where they provide 60-79% of the rural labor force. Nigeria is marked by huge geographical disparities. It has been observed that, human development outcomes for women are worse in the North, where poverty levels are often twice as high as parts of the South (72% in the North-East compared with 26% in the South East and a national average of 54%).

**Ecological Factor:** Another reason that for low participation politics is the ecological factor; This a factor contributed immensely to the low level of women's participation in Nigeria as observed by Asmau (2012) The Nigerian political scene is not female friendly and above all not very favorable to women. Despite the fact that we have come a long way from the era of the first, second, and third republics when women were used to chant, sing, dance and entertain crowds at rallies more needs to be done. The political arena is often perceived as a dirty vocation for crude and uncouth people who bend rules and subvert due process. The media are full of stories of unsavory and manipulative actions of members of the political class who are in essence corrupt. The political process is time

consuming with caucus meetings, campaigns, fundraising, primers etc. Nocturnal meetings are a norm rather than an exception. Historically the political scene is associated with women of loose morals who are deemed irresponsible. A great percentage of women are uncomfortable with such issues as hugging, handshakes, being raised shoulder high by youth who are high on drugs, use of foul language. As a result, women hardly will compromise their values for the sake of political participation and contribution to nation building.

**Cultural Practice:** Culture is another factor militating against the participation of women in Nigerian politics as argued by Dangiwa (1971) to him, Hausa women have all along been minors legally and economically, they have been word of men and it is clear they had no political roles. They have no independent thinking powers. A number of cultural practices persist which prevent women from political participation. An institution like child-marriage and purdah are barriers to adult females exercising their basic constitutional rights, biological explanation usually given women low level of participation in politics reinforces the sexual ideology which underpins and emphasizes the social supremacy of men over women. Sarah (2004) argued that, Nigerian societies use culture to discriminate women. For example, women in Igbo societies are not expected to present kola nut. He further stresses that, party officials don't take a female candidate seriously, female aspirants are associated with negative labelling, the use of abusive language in addition to indignity problem. In addition to this, McRobbie (2009) pointed that, in traditional depoliticization of female personality in childhood and adult socialization through group activities, aggressive political commitment is considered as unfeminine and unhealthy for women; in these cases suffer the threat of stronger sanctions being imposed on them for what may be considered improper in men.

**Political violence:** Political violence is among the reasons that contributed immensely to the low level of women's participation in Nigerian politics. Political violence has become the feature of democratization in Nigeria. Many political activities were soaked by violence and killings. Political violence seems to be institutionalized in a Nigerian political process which make the politics look dirty in the eyes of many Nigerians, and this often discourages people more especially women from participating (Arowolo & Aluko, 2010). Political violence, thuggery and high level of intimidation is one of the factor limited women from participation in Nigerian politics as observed by (Asmau, 2012).

**Women's Perception of Politics:** Nigerians are awash daily with tales and news of dishonest and disreputable practice of some politicians. Thus, the common perception of politics is that it is a dirty trade that is reserved for people of questionable integrity who have little regard for the rule of law and due process. Therefore, women in politics are seen either as partners in crime or abettors of the vile committed by the political class. In order to

avoid the discoloration or blot associated with politicking, some women prefers to stay out or take a back seat. (Ngara & Ayabam, 2013:53)

**Government Policies:** Some obstacles to women's participation can be found even in Nigerian policies which often contradictory to the provision of the constitution itself, for example; with the provisions of the Nigeria Police Regulation 124 and 127, and Nigeria tax laws and policies. Taxation of women in the public sector is still based on the preposterous premise that married women have no family responsibilities and are maintained by men, hence where both worked the men have the tax relief for children and dependents while women do not. The Police regulation that places restriction on married policewomen officers while in service is discriminatory. For example, women officers cannot marry without the prospective husband undergoing screening. This, however, is not applicable to the male officers. Furthermore, some provisions of the 1999 Nigeria Constitution are discriminatory against women, especially in the areas of language (Section 131), on citizenship (Section 29), and in the construction of section 42 that prohibits discrimination on the ground of sex, this is because the section preserves the equal status for men and women only in relation to law but does not extend the protection to practice neither does the provision protect women from private actors (UNCEDAW, 2003).

**Illiteracy or Low Level of Education:** Illiteracy or low levels of education are one of the major obstacles to women's political participation in Nigeria. UNICEF, survey 2004 revealed that, in Nigeria, only 60% of women aged 30-45 years manage to complete their elementary education and only 26% proceeded to the secondary level. Similarly, a survey by the National Planning Commission indicates that 50% of women had no formal education (Okpilike & Abamba, 2013:159). This invariably translates to why comparably few numbers of women qualify for jobs in the formal sector. The limited number of educated women also accounts for why only few women present themselves as candidates for elective positions.

**Religious Teachings:** Nigerian society is dominated by two major world religions; (Islam and Christianity) and perhaps the religions preach male supremacy and domination over the affairs of the family, and female subordination and submit to the husband, and it has been established right from creation. This is one of the reasons that limited women from participating in Nigerian politics. Nolte, Danjibo and Oladeji (2009) observed that, the religious dimension has become more prominent since 1999, when political liberalization allowed a greater degree of freedom of worship; this makes it possible and easier for religion to play a role toward shaping the participation of women in the political process.

**Inadequacy of willing and Educated Women:** Some women in Nigeria naturally subject themselves to domestic activities and the need to prevent



broken homes. This inevitably reduces the number of qualified women for both elective and appointive positions. Eyinade (2010) stress that, the perception of women on politics is that; "politics is a dirty game": politics is perceived as a dirty vocation that is reserved for unrefined people who have little scruples with bending the rules and subverting due process.

**High Cost of Election:** Although this equally affects men, but the rate at which it affects women is more pronounced in Nigeria. The high cost of financing political parties and campaign is a big obstacle to women. In Nigeria the minimum cost of gubernatorial election could go as high as 200 million Naira (Equivalent to RM5 million). This is very huge amount that few women in Nigeria can mobilize its (Collier, and Vicente, 2012).

**Issue of Indigineity:** This is another major barrier that militates against women's participation in politics. Women who are married outside their constituency of birth and want to contest in their marriage constituency are usually regarded as non-indigene by the people from that constituency. Even those women participated, it has been observed that, their involvement in politics is mostly at the level of voting and latent support and this is an attribute of some forms of electoral violence and conflicts perpetrated and perpetuated by men and male youths as also identified by (Olasunkanmi, 2014).

Despite the above mentioned factors, in recent time, there is an increase in the number of women that participate in Nigerian politics when compare to the previous time as however identified by, (The Nigerian CEDAW NGO, Coalition Shadow report 2008, New York, United Nations Committee on the Elimination of all form of Discrimination against Women) but still the percentage of the informants is negligible when looking at the women population in the country and by considering the international standard of 30% benchmark.

## 1.2 Problem Statement

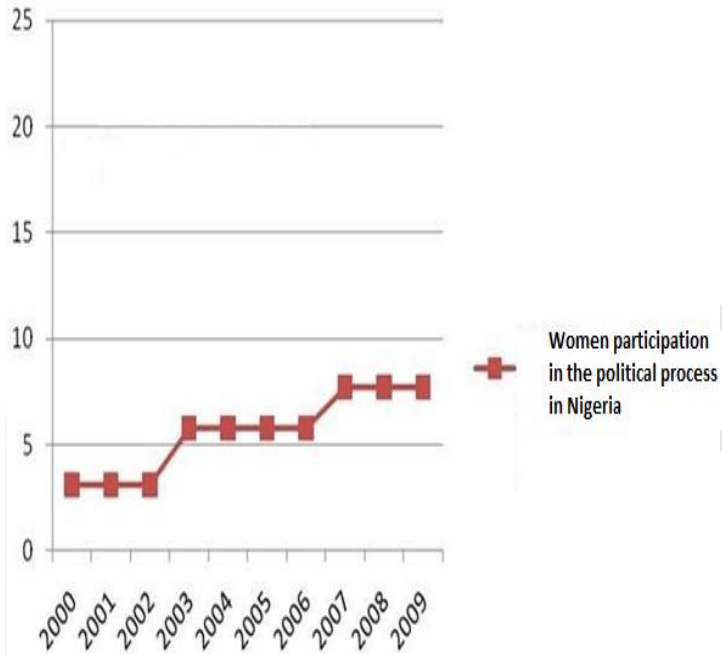
Political participation is an ideal feature of democracy and democracy presumes participation of every eligible citizen in determining the political direction of a country. In this regards both men and women were expected to participate in the decision making process without any bias or jeopardy.

It's common knowledge that in the present day, women were entirely absent or underrepresented in the world politics and political process. Research and literatures confirmed that women were left behind in the world, politics and the political process, and that stopped many country's democracy from reaching its peak and attaining international recognition. Many African country's democracy in which Nigeria is inclusive was relegated and unrecognized by international environment due to the fact that features of ideal democracy did not operate or work properly and one

of them is the inability of women who form almost half of the country's population to take part in the decision making process.

Reynolds (1999) in his study have confirmed that Nigerian women were merely absent in the country's politics and the study suggest that there is a need to employ the mechanism through which will bring to the fore a solution to some of the identified factors that are responsible for making women's voices and action in Nigerian politics and political processes unheard and unseen. Women conference in 1995 suggests at least 35% representation of women in both elective and appointive positions in every democratic country, but yet in Nigeria, the suggestion is still unrealistic, because women were still marginalized in the country's politics. This problem makes imperative for stakeholders to find a way and long lasting solutions that will save Nigerian democracy from becoming ridiculous.

In recent time more especially from 1999 up to present day, research and literature confirmed that, women political participation trend, witness a tremendous increase, but yet the participation is insignificant when looking at their population, which about 49% of Nigerian population and also by looking at the international standard benchmark of at least 35% participation. (Arolowo and Aluko, 2010) This makes it necessary to look for ways that will boost participation of women in Nigerian politics and of course that is what informed the choice of this research study titled "Women and political participation in Nigeria" with a particular reference to Kaduna state.



**Figure 1.1: Women participation in the political process in Nigeria (INEC, 2009).**



**Figure1.2: The women in Jonathan's life**  
 (<http://www.vanguardngr.com/2012/12/the-women-in-jonathans-life/>)



Figure 1.3: Beyond Numbers: Women Political Marginalization in Nigeria (<http://www.gendercrossborders.com/2011/10/14/beyond-numbers-women%E2%80%99s-political-marginalisation-in-nigeria/>)



Figure 1.4: Source: G:\Boosting women's political participation vital for democracy, UN forum stresses.mht

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

1. To examine the women political participation trend in Nigeria;
2. To determine factors that influence women's political participation in Kaduna State Nigeria; and
3. To evaluate the obstacles that hinder women's political participation in Kaduna State Nigeria.

### **1.4 Research Questions**

In an attempt to realize our objectives, the researcher come up the following research questions

1. What is the women political participation trend in Nigeria?
2. What are the factors influencing women's political participation in Nigeria?
3. What are the obstacles that hinder women's political participation in Nigeria?

### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

The essence of any research is to contribute meaningfully to the development and advancement of knowledge. This research seeks to identify the factors that influence women's participation in politics is imperative to the extent that, the findings when applied will help toward enhancing women's participation in Nigerian politics generally.

Another factor that informed the importance of this research work is that, Nigeria is presently working toward achieving its vision 2020 in which part of the vision is to consolidate its democratic system of governance, thereby meeting up with international standard and part of the criteria is to employ all necessary means of giving every individual qualified member of society chance to take part in the decision making process.

This study attempted to employ means of giving almost half of the Nigerian population, which are women the opportunity to take part in the decision making process.

The literatures reviewed by this research will help to shed more light to the understanding of the global trend of women's political participation and will also help in educating women about the imperatives of their participation in political affairs of the society.

The research findings and suggestions will help decision makers toward employing means of encouraging women's participation in politics; the study can also be used as a reference material for individual or group that may want to undertake a study on the same or relevant topics. Finally, this study will contribute to the existing knowledge, thereby bridging gap (s) among scholars.



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