

Problems of Gender Differentials in Literacy and Enrolment Among the Yorubas of South-West Nigeria

Peter O. Ogunjuyigbe¹ and Adebayo O. Fadeyi²

*1. Department of Demography and Social Statistics Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife,
Nigeria*

Email: pogunjuyigbe@yahoo.com

2. Lagos State University, Ojoo, Lagos

KEY WORDS: Gender; literacy; disparity; enrol-ment; disincentive

ABSTRACT This study was designed in response to the general concern for the low educational status of Nigerian women. Data for the study were obtained from a survey conducted in three Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Osun and Oyo states of South Western Nigeria. These include Ola-Oluwa in Osun State and Ogo-Oluwa in Oyo state, the two LGAs where the existing disparity is worsening to the disadvantage of women and girl child and Obokun local government area in Osun state with high female literacy and enrolment serving as control local government area. The study revealed the depth of the problem of gender disparity. It revealed (i) that the main causes of gender disparity are fear of early marriage and pregnancy, the poor attitudes of government, escalating costs and cultural factors (ii) that mostly in Muslim communities, parents and girls share the culture of early marriage and work towards it quite early, and (iii) that parents were more interested in boys' education than girls'. To tackle these problems, measures such as public enlightenment, free education at all levels, improved infrastructure and teaching standards, literacy campaigns as well as increased financial commitment by the parents were recommended.