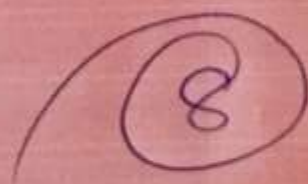


# **NIGERIAN JOURNAL OF TEACHER EDUCATION AND TEACHING**

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# UTILIZING THE CHALLENGES AND SUCCESS STORIES OF ROLE MODELS IN SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY AND MATHEMATICS (STM) AS BOOSTER FOR GENDER EQUITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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## Abstract

Among several factors identified for the low level of scientific, technological and economic growth is the persistent low participation of women in technological development. This paper surveyed gender barriers and challenges among 96 selected successful women who excel in science technology and mathematics-based occupations, and their success stories that made them great role models. It was found that these groups of women when brought into close and regular contacts with Nigerian school girls will boost their interest in science subjects and science-based occupations, to complement the male efforts in contributing to technological development.

## Introduction

The place of Science, Technology and Mathematics Education (STME) in the life of any nation is one, which is inextricably tied with the pace of development. In fact the STME growth of a nation can be used as reliable indices of the potential for sustainable development. Presently there is a wide disparity between men and women in the production inputs in developing countries including Nigeria with a high women census figure (Wasagu (1993), Addic (1995), Gwaran (1997) and Ogwuazor (2001).

Over the years, the importance of bridging the educational gaps between the males and females has been stressed worldwide. One of the Millennium Development Goals in UN summit in September, 2000 is: Promote gender equality and empower women. Eliminate gender disparity in primary school and at all level by 2015. The wide gap between males and females appears to have persisted for centuries with women lagging so much behind their male