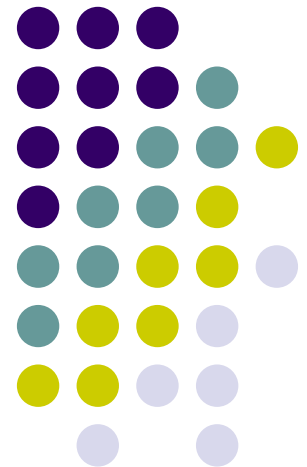


GENDER MAINSTREAMING: IMPERATIVE FOR POVERTY ALLEVIATION

FOR PARTICIPANTS AT THE
NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF
MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

ABUJA

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PROGRAMME OBJECTIVE



This program is aimed to sensitize participants and the general public to gender issues in social, political and economic agenda of Nigeria and the effect of gender inequality on poverty alleviation in the country

ROAD MAP

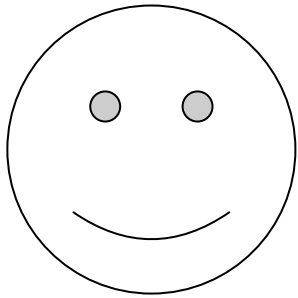


- Introduction
- Gender mainstreaming
- Global update on poverty alleviation
- UNDP goals 1&3
- How has the world fared on goals 1 &3 achievement
- Summary of selected countries analysis
- How goal 3, with emphasis on women in-equality to men impacts on poverty alleviation
- Nigeria on gender equality and poverty
- Conclusions and recommendations



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“Whenever we lift one soul from a life of poverty, we are defending human rights. And whenever we fail in this mission, we are failing human rights.”- Kofi Annan 2000 while addressing United Nations General Assembly on MDGs in New York



“ A country therefore inhabited and managed by people who are indeed human rights and development minded shall at all levels be mindful of the cankerworm of poverty

Understanding gender mainstreaming



This involves a clearer appreciation of the concept of gender and equality.

In the next few slides, we shall look at those distinctive issues that make gender mainstreaming important in all facets of economic, political and social health of every society. My lines of thoughts in these definitions are mainly borrowed from, and tend to define the OSAGI (Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues) ideologies

gender



This is the social attribute and opportunities associated with being male or female and the relationships between males and females.

It determines what is **contextually** Expected, Allowed or Valued in a man or women. It also **defines** roles, responsibilities, activities undertaken and decision making opportunities in most societies

inequality



Gender equality has to do with equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities for women, men, boys and girls.

It does not mean that women and men would be the same, but means that the rights, responsibilities and opportunities available to male or female would not be affected by their biological facts of being born as male or female. A society therefore where consciously, or unconsciously any sex has an advantage over the other is a society in practice of gender inequality. OSAGI concludes on this matter by stating that “equality between women and men is both human rights issue and a precondition for, and indicator of, sustainable people-centred development”



Gender mainstreaming

OSAGI defines Gender mainstreaming as a globally accepted strategy for achieving gender equality.

It further states that **Mainstreaming is an approach or means to achieve the MDG goal 3 i.e. “promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women.”**

Mainstreaming ensures that gender equality is central to all human activities.

Establishment of mainstreaming



Mainstreaming obtained its greatest focus during the September 1995 United Nations 4th World Conference on Women which took place in Beijing. At that conference, it was decided that attention should be paid to gender perspectives as an integral part of interventions in all areas of societal development. Gender mainstreaming was therefore carried in each of the strategic objectives identified at that Beijing Conference



Poverty- definitions

Poverty was defined by the New thesaurus dictionary as “ **a condition or fact of being deficient**”

While the Rogerts 21st Century Thesaurus calls it “**want, extreme need, often financial**”

But see the synonyms from the later definition, poverty is – “**abjection, aridity, bankruptcy, barrenness, emptiness, hardship, impoverishment, indigence, impecuniousness, meagreness, penniless, pinch, reduction, starvation, underdevelopment, scarcity**” etc

Poverty alleviation-definitions



Alleviation is simply defined as freedom or relief especially from pains.

Poverty Alleviation may therefore be defined as
“Relief or Freedom from condition or fact of
being deficient; in want or extreme need”

Feminised poverty



An international study on women and poverty states that a great majority of the world's poor are women, see

http://www.pdre.org/rights/women_and_poverty.html

The implication therefore is that poverty in the world is mainly feminised. The questions on the minds of world leaders should be why is there such a high level of poverty and why are women most affected ?



Causes of feminised poverty

- Women not made an integral part of governance
- Socio cultural biases against women in education, government and economic activities
- Extreme violence in political dispensation
- Unethical and unprofessional practices encouraged by government
- Family considerations where women are always seen as the ones to take care of the family while the men deal with external issues
- Dehumanisation of women in certain societies through parental and other societal abuses



The world is concerned

- It is the concern for world poverty, gender inequality and the general environment and global integration that led the world leaders into formulating the MDGs and declaring the year 2005 as the year of Microfinancing
- While Goals 3(promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women) and 5(improvement of maternal health) are directly related to women, goals 1(reduction of extreme poverty) and 4(reduction of infant mortality) are indirectly focusing on women since it has been shown that women form the greater majority of the world's poorest and are the ones affected in child births

Reducing women's poverty



UNIFEM (United Nations Development Fund for Women) is at the forefront of the fight against feminised poverty. The priority accorded reducing feminised poverty by UNIFEM is accentuated by the facts that apart from women having the highest ratio of global poverty, the disparity is being further widened by globalization with women losing more than their share of jobs, benefits and labour rights.



Women, Human Rights and poverty-symptoms of human rights violation

- Lack of access to clean water
- Lack of access to adequate housing
- Inadequate food, health care
- When a woman lives in an unsafe and unhealthy environment
- When she is denied access to fundamental human rights to a life of dignity
- When she is subjected to inadequate standard of living

Women, Human Rights and poverty-symptoms of poverty



- violation of women's human rights to non discrimination
- Denial of access to employment opportunities
- Lower remuneration for similar jobs than men
- Denial by law or custom from owning or inheriting lands and landed properties

Women, human rights and Poverty-Symptoms of poverty- contd.



- Denial of equal access to education
- Unequal rights to the number or spacing of children
- Unequal share of responsibility for raising children

The Beijing conference on women in power and decision making



The 1995 conference specifically stated and, I quote-

“In addressing the inequality between men and women, the sharing of power and decision-making at all levels , Governments, and other actors should promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective in all policies and programmes so that before decisions are taken, an analysis is made of the effects on women and men, respectively”

MDG recent review reports



Recent (Year 2007 and 2008) review of the MDGs showed clearly that whilst a lot of progress is made on Goal, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8, not much progress is made on goals 1 and 3 which are poverty and gender inequality respectively. **I therefore deduced from the trend that gender inequality is positively correlated to poverty.** This is demonstrable from the summarised outcome of some countries MDG review in the following slides

MDG REVIEW CONTD.



The MDG review reports indicate that apart from the Developed economies gender inequality with women at a great disadvantage exist at unacceptable levels and there is a great likelihood that the 2015 goals may not be achieved. High levels of inequality are recorded in Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean as well as some Asian and Pacific worlds

MDG review..



Again, although global poverty level is generally seen as reducing, the **Gini Coefficient** (income inequality) appear to be widening. However, although some African countries like Ghana have some hopes of achieving the MDG target of halving 1990 poverty level by 2015, most sub Saharan African countries are dragging the world back in spite of huge international aids that have gone into countries like Kenya. **Nigeria was noted to be carrying the highest number of extreme poor in view of its high population with over 70% classified as living below the poverty line.**

Some country statistics on MDG performance



SUMMARY OF SELECTED COUNTRY PERFORMANCE ON MDGs 1 3 RELATED GOALS

COUNTRY	POVERTY REDUCTION TO 1/2 FROM BASELINES	GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN RELATED GOALS	REMARKS
1 ANGOLA	severe poverty, USAID recent review showed that over 60% live below the poverty line	low % of girls in schools	very high Gini Coefficient (income inequality). Extended civil conflicts have militated against poverty reduction in this oil and diamond rich country
2 BANGLADESH	36% of the population living under the poverty. This is a reduction from 59% in the baseline year. there is however wide divergence in poverty indicators b/w the urban and rural areas	gender equality in schools attained, reduction in infant mortality. Child mortality rate still high, only 9% of births attended by qualified health workers	hardcore of extreme poverty exists inspite of generous international aid since 1990.
3 BENIN	poverty level is on the increase from 26.5% in the base year 1990 to 37.4% in 2006	very poor maternal and child health. High gender inequality. Life expectancy is just over 55 years	the hope of achieving MDG's is very low

Country analysis on MDG contd.



4	CAMEROUN	40% of population live below poverty line	rising child mortality	stagnated economy with high doubts of meeting the MDGs
5	CHINA	WORLD BANK 2008 report shows that some 287 million Chinese live below the poverty line of \$1 a day. However, the country has already met the MDG goal 1 of halving extreme poverty ahead of 2015 deadline	n/a	extreme gini coefficient caused by separate citizenship rights for city and country side people. Government is striving to harmonise the societal imbalance
6	EGYPT	has already achieved the MDG 1. Poverty level only 19.6%	high level of girls drop outs from schools. There is improvement in maternal health and child mortality rate is a huge success story	the country is however fringed with uneven developments with the people in Upper Egypt and rural areas highly disadvantaged causing high Gini coefficient nation-wide Egypt is however said to have great chances of achieving all MDGs
7	GHANA	UNDP report shows that 44.8% live below the poverty line and this is in spite of lavish international aids on the country in recent years	high level of gender inequality exists	there are noted reduction in all the parameters for the MDG However going by the very slow rate of reduction, it is doubtful that Ghana would achieve most MDGs in 2015

Country analysis on MDG contd.



8	BRAZIL	the country is said to have already achieved the MDG 1 which now stands at 4.2 % from 9.5 % in 1992		very high Gini Coefficient combined with other inequalities to pose a great threat to the achievement of the MDGs. it is on records that less than 3% of the polulation controls 2/3 of the land available for production in Brazil
9	INDIA	World bank reports that 42% of Indians, (using a threshold of \$1.25 a day), live below the poverty line. This tranalates to 450 million people	falling rate of child and infant mortality, however maternal mortality has been steady since the baseline year	a vast majority of Idians are said to live close to poverty line and therefore, food prices inflation poses a serious threat to the country's poverty reduction. Almost half of the young people in India are said to be underweight from malnutrition. There exists a high Gini Coeffiencence. Most MDG are unlikely to be met in India
10	KENYA	The poverty line has increased from the baseline year and presently at 46%	improved rate of maternal and infant mortality	the chances of meeting the MDGs is bleak except international aids are tremendously increased. However, foreign aids of recent have been hampered by concerns over standards of governance
11	MALAYSIA	%of people living below the poverty line has fallen to 5 % from 50% since 1970 Extreme poverty is rare in this country	infant motality has greatly dropped and gender inequality is highly closed up	UNDP reports that Malasia has already achived 7 out of the 8 MDGs. However, the only snag is high Gini Coeffiencence

Nigerian Gender and poverty issues



Poverty level in Nigeria is generally caused by the high level of gender discrimination. Discrimination against women in Nigeria is both cultural and societal in out look.

- Our girls are thought right from home to see themselves as second class to their brothers. They do all the house chores and serve their brothers in the guise that they are “women”
- The society expects a women to be loyal to her man even when the man’s disloyalty cries up to high heavens
- Boys are expected to inherit their parents fortunes since they must be the ones to perpetuate their father’s names



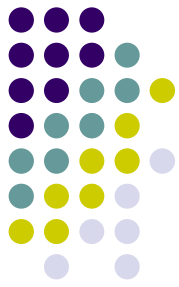
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Nigerian gender and poverty issues contd.



- Because of the low level of literacy and un-equal rights of women, they are unable to train their children or positively influence their husbands and children to greater productivity that eliminates poverty-
- the Northern part of Nigerian and the Niger Delta regions are typical examples of areas where feminised poverty caused by gender in-equality has instigated poverty and violence
- Low level of development in the Ibo speaking areas of Nigeria can also be traced to the enslavement of women to men.

Place of Nigerian women in governance and decision making



- I would like to demonstrate Nigeria gender inequality using a statistics of Nigeria women in power in the government and the financial industry

Statistical representation of Nigerian women in power

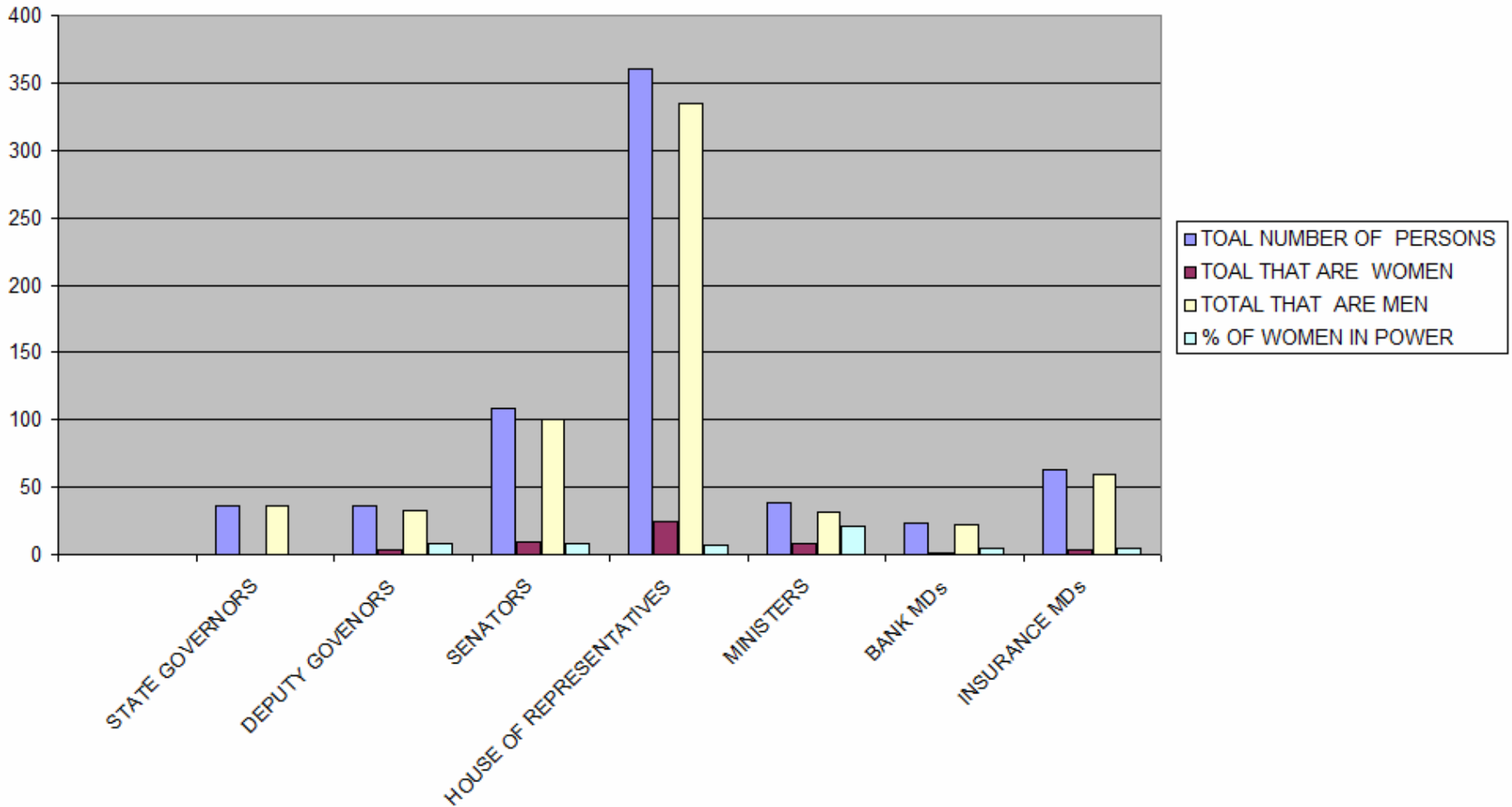


STATISTICAL REPRESENTATION OF NIGERIA WOMEN IN POWER				
AREA OF GOVERNANCE/ INDUSTRY	TOAL NUMBER OF PERSONS	TOAL THAT ARE WOMEN	TOTAL THAT ARE MEN	% OF WOMEN IN POWER
STATE GOVERNORS	36	0	36	0
DEPUTY GOVENORS	36	3	33	8.3333333333
SENATORS	109	9	100	8.256880734
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	360	25	335	6.9444444444
MINISTERS	39	8	31	20.51282051
BANK MDs	23	1	22	4.347826087
INSURANCE MDs	63	3	60	4.761904762

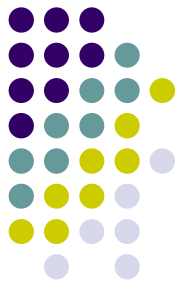
Chart of Nigerian women in power



CHART OF NIGERIAN WOMEN IN POWER



Some Reasons for the very poor level of women in power in Nigeria



- The high level of corruption and impropriety by men
- High level of manipulation of the women by men
- Unethical practices by men in governance which women who are more principled are unable to cope with
- Dirty polity that debars women from venturing into the political arena- only one Presidential candidate – Dr Mrs Sarah Jubril has ever been popped in Nigeria in 48 years of independence
- Lack of political will by the law makers to consciously mainstream gender

Implications of the dearth of women in power in Nigeria on the level of poverty



- Men take decision on issues that affect women who are the most affected by poverty
- Women recede more as far as economic activities are concerned and play second fiddle to men
- Women are unable to aspire to the top as they see the tops as prerogatives for men
- Since women influence their children and family members, the upcoming ones see their poor mothers as an ideal to be emulated thereby perpetuating poverty

Conclusions/ Recommendations



The world is definitely moving towards poverty eradication. Our country cannot afford to continue living in the limbo or pretend that there is no poverty among us but instead live in the unachievable vision 20/20.

The level of armed robbery, 419, Social miscreants in Nigeria today are all manifestations of the level of extreme poverty in the country

Nigeria cannot afford to “CONTINUE GROWING WITHOUT A HUMAN FACE”, It is about time for those in power and all Nigerians to take steps to say no to gender inequality and perpetuated poverty