Voices of Nigerian Women in Education

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Sharing Personal Stories

Expectations

Women’s Voices in Ed Tech

We need to tell stories to each other about who we are, why we are, where we come from, and what might be possible.

~Alan Rickman

My Journey - Felicia

• Childhood nickname was Dr.
• Returned as teenager to village from Lagos
• Questioned education for daughters
• Pulled out of school to work the farm
• Urged to marry vs education
• Teachers influenced father
• Blessed with inner drive and courage

Finding Her Goddess

• Environment not supportive of medical career
• Scholarship awarded in secondary
• Told women appropriate only as teachers or family
• Transitioned medical → academic doctor
• Always guided by her dream
Felicia’s Voice in Admin & ICT

- Established a private primary school
- PhD 2017
- Presented at Harvard and Indiana University
- Established ADECT
- Created lasting collegial relations with key AECT scholars
- Organized the initial AECT – ADECT professional conference, May 2019
- Waiting to see what the future holds…

Past and Present Voices

130 Million Females Denied an Education

- Child labor
- Early marriage
- Conflict
- Cost
- Gender bias
- Health
- Natural disasters
- Poor quality

Looking back…

- Largest African nation
- 59.4% female literacy
- 74.4% male literacy
- First choice – male
- Limited options for women
- Existence of Boko Haram

Nigerian Past and Present Voices

I believe in the power of the voice of women.

-Malala Yousafzai

QuotesPick.com
Oh Lord, Prosper My Husband…

Looking back…
- Prof. Adetoun Ogunseye – 1st female Prof.
- Grace Alele-Williams
  - 1st female Vice-Chancellor
  - 1st female PhD
- Funmilayo Ransom-Kuti – teacher, activist, founder Nigerian Women’s Union
- Kuforiji-Olubi – Headmistress at 19
  - 1st female graduate from male-only Chartered Accountant of England and Wales.
  - 1st female graduate of ICAN

Current Status of Women in Nigeria
- 39% girls married before 18, 16% before 15
- Women before today paved the path
- Led with courage and determination
- Awakening to value of education
- Fighting cultural bias against women
- More women seen in professional roles
- Mothers empowering daughters and sons
- Pattern of sexual abuse at university level

Nigerian Women in Higher Ed

Enrollment and Employment
- 1960 - 7.7% of Nigeria's college students female
- 2009 - 45% of university students in Nigeria female
- Women just 20.3% of lecturers in Nigerian universities

Societal Benefits of Educating Women
- Correlate with improved health and increased quality of life.
- More likely to seek proper medical care both for themselves — especially maternal care — and their children.
- Higher rates of female education correspond with lower HIV and STD rates.
- Less likely to get married or give birth as teenagers
- Improves society as a whole.
- More likely to hold stable jobs, less likely to be in poverty, and more likely to contribute to the overall economy.
Evelyn Oyebode

Every empowered woman will impact positively first to the family and then society at large.

Father: senior Naval officer who died when she was 6
Family relocated to a rural village from Lagos
Mother: no formal education or skills
Her children were separated; 2 elder brothers sent to uncle and educated
Girls education was not seen as a priority.
Mother - 2 jobs and got loans for daughters’ education
I enrolled in a Vocational school to learn English and Typewriting.
Loan from a cooperative society to enroll for secondary school final examination
I got a job with low pay to assist in paying off the loan.

Sympathetic boss, gave me old textbooks used by his children.
Secured a typist job at College of Education, Agbor.
Academic environment and supportive husband resulted in diploma certificate in Business Administration.
Today, I am proud mother of 4 children, a graduate and an employer
Key was strong and supportive mother and husband
I am an advocate of Girl child education and every woman should be empowered educationally or through skills acquisition.

Caroline Obioma Nwaham (PhD)

A trailblazer, a role model, a wealth creator and a philanthropist

During grammar school, sold crayfish
As Secondary School Teacher, sold egg rolls and buns
Used profits to invest in real estate and tourism
Over thirty four years teaching experience
Currently, a Chief Lecturer with Dept. of Ed. Foundation and Administration, College of Education, Agbor
First female member of Obi - In - Council, Umunede.
Vice President University of Port Harcourt Alunini Association Delta State Chapter
Future dream: To become a Professor before I retire
Dr Mrs Bernadette A.J.Egede

Life teaches a lot of lessons to be learnt by everyone. The ability to learn and adjust positively to the good, sweet, lovely, palatable, bad, bitter, ugly, sad and bizarre aspects of life, overcoming all ills presented by humans and emerging unruled and focused is the hallmark of a successful living.

Dr Mrs Bernadette A.J.Egede

- Cultural importance of male children
- Second girl of 11 children
- Always excelled in school
- Father: high school teacher encouraged education
- Nigeria-Biafra civil war (68-69) delayed school 1 year
- Motived by father to attend the University
- First female to reach that level in my village
- Career choice: focused on Education for Science, Physics or Mathematics
- 1 year compulsory National Youth Core Service

Dr Mrs Bernadette A.J.Egede

- Nigeria executed Sarowiwa (the Ogoni Environmental Sanitation Activist), was suspended from Commonwealth of Nations and Canadian scholarship cancelled
- Accepted duties that men refused to do because of difficulty: ex. Dean
- Family against job location and husband
- Bribery used to deny her Provost position
- Supportive husband and strong Christian beliefs
- I seek to use my knowledge to improve myself, family and others around me

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Looking Forward

Women's Voices Today

- More women CEOs and in Higher Ed
- Recognized as leaders
- Louder voices in politics
- New generation
- Collaborative networks
- International Women's Day

Supporting Emerging Scholars/Leaders

- Be an intentional mentor
  - Actively invest in mentee's success
  - Purposefully build mentees' confidence
  - Assure early successes
  - Promote mentees' strengths to others
- Treat mentees as your colleagues
- Invite mentees to work alongside you (co-teaching, co-writing, co-serving)
Looking Towards Tomorrow

- Share your stories
- Challenges
- Successes
- Recommendations
- Make your voice heard

Final thought…

A woman with a voice is, by definition, a strong woman

- Melinda Gates

Questions and Discussion