

Event Round-up: Evolving Gender Roles and Stereotypes in Nigerian Society - Feminist In Context 4/6

Speaker: Nander Esmeralda | **Date:** 10th August, 2023

Key Message

Gender roles have continued to evolve in Nigeria. Traditionally, women were caregivers, and men were breadwinners. But now, many women are workers. However, stereotypes against women still exist. For example, women in STEM are viewed as unfit for specific roles. Education and careers for women can still face gender bias. However, many factors contribute to the evolution of gender roles in Nigeria. These include:

1. Increased access to education for women
2. The growing influence of the media, which is portraying women in more diverse and empowered roles
3. The rise of the #MeToo movement, which has raised awareness of gender-based violence and discrimination

As much evolution is taking place, Nigerian women face certain challenges in terms of gender roles and stereotypes:

1. Lack of access to education and employment opportunities
2. Gender-based violence
3. Discrimination in the workplace
4. Stereotypes about women's abilities

While efforts to challenge traditional norms and promote gender equality are increasing, deeply ingrained stereotypes still impact domestic duties and societal expectations. The shift towards more equal gender roles is ongoing, marked by progress and challenges. Stereotypes are strong in education, work, politics, gender, and religion. Tackling them is tough but vital. Together, we can build fairness where all thrive, regardless of background.

Conclusion

To make greater strides in advocating for gender equality, we can adopt various strategies, such as emphasizing intersectionality, debunking damaging stereotypes, endorsing gender-equal policies, ensuring institutional responsibility, and participating in grassroots activism. These concepts are just a starting point for fostering change in gender equality advocacy. Recognizing that no universal solution exists, the optimal approach will hinge on the unique circumstances. We can forge a fairer and more inclusive global society for everyone through collaborative efforts.

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