



**THOMAS ADEWUMI  
UNIVERSITY,  
OKO, KWARA STATE**  
Science | Technology | Medicine



# Breaking Barriers and Enhancing Visibility Among Nigerian Women in STEM Fields

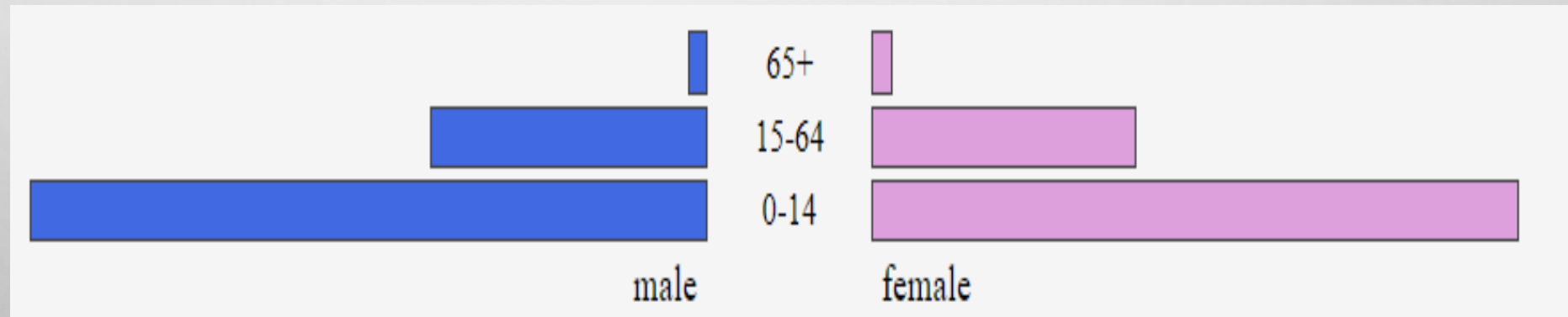


Presentation by:  
**Adekemi T. Adesulu-Dahunsi PhD.**

**@ CENTRE FOR GENDER & SOCIAL POLICY STUDIES, OAU**  
**2024 International Biennial Conference**  
**15th May, 2024**

# ABOUT NIGERIA

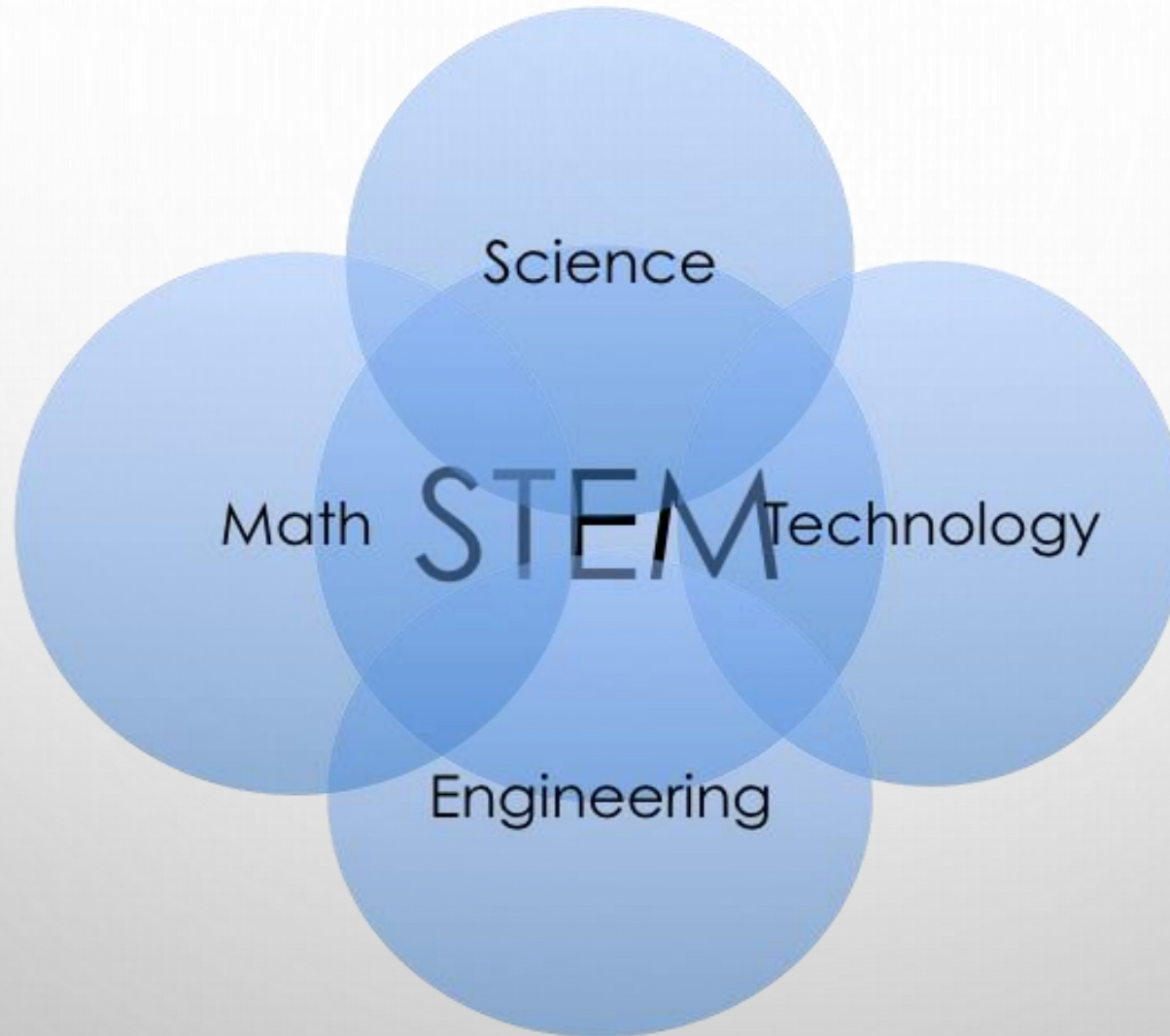
- Giant of Africa: Nigeria's population is estimated **229,466,404** million people in May, 2023
- Multinational and multicultural state with over 250 ethnic groups (3 major group)
- Women constituted 49.4 % , and Men 50.6 %
- The population growth rate is estimated at 2.4 %
- The sex ratio was 100.1 men to 100 women.



*Source: National Population Commission*

Figure 1: Pyramid showing the distribution of male vs female by age

# WHAT IS STEM?



*These fields are the bedrock of innovation, driving advancements that shape our future.*

***A TESTAMENT TO HUMAN CURIOSITY AND INGENUITY***

# Obstacles faced by Women and Girls in undertaking STEM Courses:

- ❑ Limited access to education and funding
- ❑ Lack of recognition and opportunities for advancement.
- ❑ Pervasive belief that women were inherently unsuited for scientific work
- ❑ Discouraging future generations from pursuing careers in STEM, by having the perception that they are difficult subjects.



# SDG 4 AND 5



- Gender equality in education, especially in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), is a major concern for many national and international organizations and communities.

- The UNESCO agenda on quality education and gender equality to promote Sustainable Development Goals 4 and 5, which is to ensure all-encompassing, unbiased, transformative, and lasting education opportunities for all, irrespective of gender.

- However, gender inequality in STEM still exists and remains a major challenge for many countries, especially in developing countries like Nigeria

# STEM ENROLMENT



- Fewer girls are picking STEM subjects at school due to it being seen as a male-dominated subject, and many think that STEM courses are difficult.

- In Nigeria's university, there are only 25% of graduates in STEM subjects who are women and 52% are males.

# Gender Disparity in STEM

- Most problems in nation building can be solved by applying STEM....
- Women and girls remain underrepresented in STEM fields: untapped potential, unrealized dreams....



- According to data from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), less than 30% of researchers worldwide are women, and only around 35% of all students enrolled in STEM-related higher education are female.
- This underrepresentation is not just a statistic; it's a reflection of the myriad challenges that deter women and girls from pursuing and persisting in these fields



# Gender Disparity in STEM

Culturally, in many societies in Nigeria, girls are regarded as inferior to boys.

How do we remove this discrimination?

**EDUCATION** (Girls do not have different brains from the boys)

- When girls are educated, there is a multiplier effect; improvement in literacy, family income, family health, employments and occupational aspirations.
- In 2019, female enrolment into 'Engineering and Technology' and Sciences was far below that of males, 12.06% of females and 87.4% of males enrolled for 'Engineering and Technology', 27.6% of females and 72.4% of males enrolled for 'Sciences' (NUC, 2019).
- The percentage of female professors in Nigeria Universities in 2017 and 2019 was low at 15.43% as against 84.57% of males, and 15.17% as against 84.83 % males respectively (NUC, 2019).



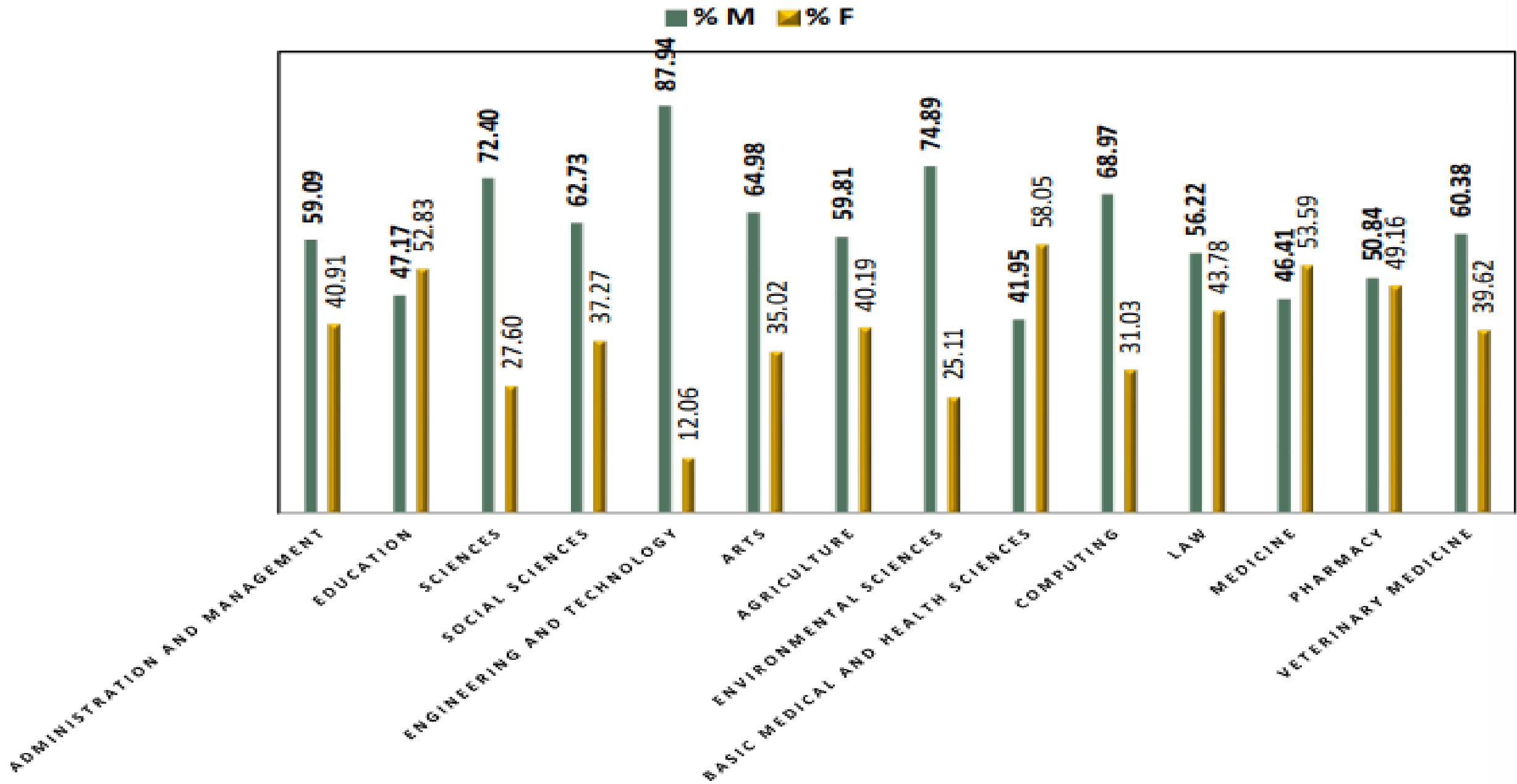


Figure 2: Full-time Postgraduate enrolment by Discipline and Sex in Universities in Nigeria

Source: National Population Commission, 2019

**Table 1: Percentage Distribution of NYSC Members by Major Discipline (2018-2020)**

MAJOR DISCIPLINE	2018		2019		2020	
	% M	% F	% M	% F	% M	% F
ADMINISTRATION	47.41	52.59	45.99	54.01	45.19	54.81
AGRICULTURE	50.81	49.19	50.11	49.89	52.61	47.39
ARTS	36.47	63.53	36.08	63.92	35.35	64.65
EDUCATION	45.54	54.46	44.47	55.53	45.40	54.60
ENGR/TECHNOLOGY	73.58	26.42	70.58	29.42	71.55	28.45
ENVIR.SCIENCE	68.76	31.24	67.01	32.99	67.48	32.52
LAW	43.03	56.97	43.47	56.53	45.59	54.41
MEDICINE	60.11	39.89	57.56	42.44	53.44	46.56
PHARMACY	43.12	56.88	45.07	54.93	44.04	55.96
SCIENCE	47.41	52.59	46.87	53.13	47.42	52.58
SOCIAL SCIENCE	51.01	48.99	49.06	50.94	52.15	47.85
VETERINARY MEDICINE	66.14	33.86	65.80	34.20	63.74	36.26

*Source: National University Commission, 2021*

# A Case Study Scenario: Honorable Speaker of Niger State House of Assembly Marrying off 100 Girls in His Constituency (May, 2024)

**Daily Trust** E-PAPER

NEWS | TOP STORY

## Niger Speaker Halts Wedding Plans For 100 Orphans

The Speaker of the Niger State House of Assembly, Barrister Abdulmalik Sarkindaji, has withdrawn his support for a mass wedding involving 100 orphans from his...

APNIC Thank you for helping us measure the Internet.

Buy Fitness Starter

**Vanguard** HOME NEWS VANGUARD AWARDS POLITICS METRO BUSINESS SPORTS EDITORIAL COLUMNS ALLURE E-EDITIONS

NEWS May 14, 2024

## Women Affairs Minister sues Niger Speaker over plans to marry 100 girls

ADVERTISEMENT

Buy Fitness Starter Bundle

Discover diverse range of treadmill bundles designed to cater to every fitness need.

Open

LATEST NEWS

ActionAid hails Tinubu over suspension of 0.5 per cent cybersecurity levy

Hausa Edition Podcast Conferences LeVogue Magazine Business News Print Advert Rates Online Advert Rates Contact Us Wednesday, May 15, 2024

LEADERSHIP FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

READ IN HAUSA

## JUST-IN: Federal Gov't Stops Niger Speaker From Marrying Off 100 Orphans

Written by Nafisat Abdulrahman and Abu Nmodu — 19 hours ago News

TRENDING NOW

- Wizkid Net Worth, House, Cars, Source Of Income (2024)
- Police Arrest Controversial Singer

**THE SOURCE** MAGAZINE

HOME TRENDING NEWS BUSINESS FEATURES OPINIONS MERIDIAN PHOTO GALLERY ABOUT US CONTACT US

PRIVACY POLICY

Features • Life & Style • Child Abuse: Niger State Speaker Faces Litigation Over Plans To Marry Off...

## Child Abuse: Niger State Speaker Faces Litigation Over Plans To Marry Off 100 Girls, As Minister Of Women Affairs Lashes Him

Author: Akinwale Kasali

May 14, 2024



Speaker of Niger State House of Assembly: Hon. Abdulmalik Sarkindaji



# Significance of Fostering Gender Diversity in STEM fields:

- Equity
- Catalyst for groundbreaking discoveries and innovations that benefit society at large.
- Influences broader landscape of research,
- Improved economy
- Collective ability to solving global challenges.



## Recommendations: Pushing STEM fields Towards Justice

- ❑ Educating the masses on the importance of diversity in science, technology, engineering & mathematics (diversity brings more backgrounds, experiences, and angles to considering a problem)
- ❑ Promoting gender diversity
- ❑ Organizing inclusion training
- ❑ Advocating for equity
- ❑ Gender should no longer be a barrier to participation in STEM
- ❑ Women embracing resilience and tenacity
- ❑ Government policy to
- ❑ Successful female scientists mentoring the younger ones





Photo speaks: The presenter receiving the prestigious L'OREAL UNESCO Award in 2021. Also showing where she was campaign and promoting STEM education among Secondary School females in Oyo and Osun States



# Recommendations: Pushing STEM fields Towards Justice

❑ Thomas Adewumi University for the Conference

• Sponsorship/Participation

❑ My mentors who inspired the greatness and ingenuity in me; Profs. (Mrs.) Olubukola Oluranti Babalola, Adesola Ajayi, Oluwatoyin Odeku and many others.

The image features a light gray background with a subtle gradient. In the top-left and bottom-right corners, there are several realistic water droplets of various sizes, rendered with soft shadows and highlights to give them a three-dimensional appearance. The text "THANK YOU" is centered in the middle of the frame.

**THANK YOU**