

**THE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF MARRIED
WOMEN STUDENTS IN NIGERIAN HIGHER
EDUCATION**

**BY
ONORIODE COLLINS POTOKRI**

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PROMOTER: PROF. VENITHA PILLAY

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DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to all my teachers and all those who cherish unity, peace, progress and prosperity for Nigeria.

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ABSTRACT

My aim in this study was to understand and explain the academic performance of married women students in higher education. The study was conducted on married women students who are studying at higher institutions in Nigeria. A mixed research method was used. The study population was drawn from two higher education institutions – a university and a college of education. Focus group conversations and interview protocol were used to gather qualitative data, while a questionnaire and the academic results of participants were used to gather quantitative data. Data were analysed using constant comparative approach – the reported stories that emanated from the conversations with the research participants; the deduced meanings from the interview protocol; and the statistical testing of the generated hypothesis via *t*-test statistics and Pearson product moment correlation. The findings include the readiness of women students to narrate their experiences, and the hindrances cultural practices impose on their academic performance, amongst other things. This study uniquely reveals that the academic performance of women students in higher education in Nigeria differs between married women students and single women students. However, some women students in this study were satisfied with their academic performance while others were not. They blamed their academic performance on several factors including cultural practices, marital status, financial constraint and so forth. Apart from women students in higher education who were not satisfied with their academic performance, all women students who formed the sample, including those who considered their academic performance to be satisfactory, complained about cultural practices and their effect on academic performance. Despite their complaints, however, the majority of the women student participants in this study, both married and single, continue to support cultural practices. They said that cultural practices, including the ones that are considered harmful to higher education for women and their academic performance, should not be eradicated or changed, as they maintain that these practices make women truly responsible.

KEY TERMS: Married women students, higher education, academic performance, cultural practices, single women students, gender, and feminism.

DECLARATION

I declare that THE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF MARRIED WOMEN STUDENTS IN NIGERIAN HIGHER EDUCATION is my original work. All sources that have been used or quoted have been indicated and acknowledged by means of complete references.

Onoriode Collins Potokri

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AAU:	Association of African Universities
AOCED:	Adeniran Ogunsanya College of Education
ASUP:	Academic Staff Union of Polytechnics
ASUU:	Academic Staff Union of Universities
CBN:	Central Bank OF Nigeria
CGPA:	Cumulative Grade Point Accumulated
ECOMOG:	Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group
FAWE:	Forum for African Women Educationists
FRN:	Federal Republic of Nigeria
IGWS:	Institute for Gender and Women Studies
JAMB:	Joint Admission and Matriculation Board
LASU:	Lagos State University
NDHS:	Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey
NPC:	National Population Commission
NUC:	National Universities Commission
UME:	Universities Matriculation Examination
UNFPA:	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF:	United Nations Children’s Fund
UP:	University of Pretoria
USAID:	United State Agency for International Development
WHO:	World Health Organisation

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