

Title of Article: Education for Sustainable Widows' Empowerment : Evidence from Southwest, Nigeria

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Abstract: Education is acknowledged as a vital tool for the attainment of sustainable transformation and inclusive societal development. Through acquisition of basic skills, knowledge formal/informal, various segments of the population especially widows (married women) who have lost their husband can be empowered to be self-reliant and economically independent inspite of the vacuum created by the supposedly "breadwinner". Education occupies a unique position in the national development programme of any nation. It is also acknowledged as the bedrock of socio-economic and political advancement of countries (Barro, 1991; National Bureau of Statistics- NBS, 2006). This is because education helps to unfetter and empower people to economic achievement. Thus, educated individuals are seen to be crucial catalyst for any economy (Schultz, 1960, Becker, 1962). A growing concern is the increasing number of widows in rural southwest Nigeria unable to read or write with lack of basic skills. The paper examines the role of education as a vital tool for widows' empowerment, other obstacles to widows' empowerment in Nigeria with a view to suggesting the way forward. The paper engages mainly secondary sources of data and utilizes relevant sociological theories to buttress the crucial role of education in widows' empowerment drive.