

# Leadership and Crises in Nigerian Universities

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# **Leadership and Crises in Nigerian Universities**

## **Can Women Make a Difference?**

**Caroline Okumdi Muoghalu**



Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa  
DAKAR

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# Preface

This book was inspired by the incessant crises in Nigerian universities and the fact that these universities are led mainly by men. The author believes that the gender imbalance in the leadership of these universities is a factor in the incessant crises which have become a barrier to the universities achieving their goals, thereby militating against Nigeria's effort towards achieving sustainable development. The absence of women in higher education management has been documented throughout the world in both the global North and South; an indication that it is a global phenomenon. Importantly, this phenomenon has been recognized as a loss of a vital part of human resource. Emeka Anyaoku (former General-Secretary of the Commonwealth) noted that "the under representation of women in higher education management is well documented and serve to demonstrate that the pool of managerial talent within each country is not optimally utilized". This realization has pushed many scholars to focus on women's representation in higher education management, including their barriers and challenges, while also highlighting women's qualities that can make a difference. The under representation of women in higher education in Nigerian Universities inspired the research proposal and project that ultimately resulted in this book. The book argues that it is men's autocratic leadership that causes crises in universities and that including women in leadership positions will facilitate a peaceful academic environment in Nigerian Universities.

This book is therefore a product of my stint at CODESRIA as a post-doctoral fellow under the Higher Education Leadership Programme. The research investigated stakeholders' positions on how women can make a difference in higher education leadership and crises in Nigerian universities. Obafemi Awolowo University and University of Ibadan were studied using both quantitative and qualitative research methodologies and relying on feminist and political economy conceptualizations. The book reports the findings of the research project and exposes the reader to the incessant crises and the wide range of issues that pertain to women and leadership globally and in Nigerian universities.

Due to the patriarchal nature of Nigerian universities and Nigerian society in general, women leadership potentials are rarely explored. This book has contributed to knowledge on university management in Nigeria by exploring and producing an alternative leadership model. More importantly, the book offers a

producing an alternative leadership model. More importantly, the book offers a solution that would facilitate the reduction of crises in Nigerian universities.

The book will be beneficial to students with interest in higher education management in Nigeria and even globally. Furthermore, teachers/scholars can employ the insights raised in the book to teach their students on the interlocking issues of gender, feminism and higher education management. The book will be of great benefit to managers of higher education in Nigeria and Africa. The book has five chapters comprising of an introduction, literature review, prevalence and causes of crises, the role of government in these crises and whether women can make a difference. The book ends with a discussion and conclusion.

**Caroline Okumdi Muoghalu**

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# About the Author

Caroline Okumdi Muoghalu received her PhD from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. She is a medical sociologist who focuses on HIV/AIDS, gender and health, particularly women's health and governance issues. She was a research fellow at the Centre for Gender and Social Policy Studies of Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria before she joined the Department of Sociology and Anthropology of the same institution. Dr Muoghalu has been involved in the gender equity project of the university for several years. She has helped to process scholarships for female indigent students and fellowships for female academic and administrative staff to build their leadership skills and competences. She has published in the gender equity bulletin, organized playlets and TV shows on gender sensitization and provided counselling for victims of rape and sexual harassment. She participated in gender mainstreaming in organizations with the Simons school of management, Boston, USA, led training workshops on counselling skills and was a resource person in the UNICEF Gender analysis of health policy, and gender and HIV training of the AIDS Prevention Initiative, Nigeria.

Dr Muoghalu has published locally and internationally on urban poor women and governance in Nigeria. She also had the privilege of attending the 2012 edition of the Governance Institute of the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) in Dakar, Senegal. She is an associate lecturer in the Centre for Gender and Social Policy Studies of Obafemi Awolowo University and is an alumna of the Advanced Research Institute of the prestigious Brown University, Rhode Island, USA. She is married to Professor Joseph Ikechukwu Muoghalu, a plant ecologist and they are blessed with children.

