

A group of 14 young women in the Vicinity of Numan near Yola, Adamawa State, Nigeria have taken part in a series of participatory workshops focusing on what young women's work involves and the challenges they face when they combine work with education

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**Youth, Gender and Education:
Changing Landscapes of Work in
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Young Women are Achievers



Young women are great at what they do and with equal opportunities and education they are mountain achievers

Young Women are Achievers

The Situation

In our community here in Numan, young women engage in many different kinds of work, and often struggle to combine this work with education. This is related to poor family background, practices that are seen as part of culture and traditions, societal norms, loss of job by the men or unwillingness of the men to work, domestic violence, excessive domestic chores, too much family responsibility, lack of infrastructures, risks of rape, sexual harassment at schools and place of work, communal crisis and a lot more. This in turn becomes a burden to young women and limiting their aspirations to work and education.

The Problem

Society has relegated women and are not given equal opportunities as the male counterparts. Women are achievers and deserved to be treated as such. Culture, traditions, and our religious beliefs are used to say that a woman should only be submissive and has made a woman's opinion not to be heard. This has put some young women in

“bondage” in both her desires to work and to attain high level of education. These beliefs have also made men abandon their responsibilities of taking care of the house/family to the women.

What should be done?

Provision of basic amenities: From one of the photos in the photovoice, a young women went very far to fetch water on her head while reading a book. If there is a tap close by, it will only take her few minutes to fetch the water and have enough time to study.

Establishment of NGOs, and more women associations are means by which women can mobilize support to allow these changes happen.

Empowerment/skills acquisition and equipment should be available in acquisition centers should be built that cater for young women.

Young women should be empowered financially so that, they will have better businesses that they will make good return on investments.

Parents, community and government should support young women to attain higher levels of education, because when they are educated, they won't be victimized. And they should form groups in which they can call on

the community leaders for help

Religious bodies should preach more on the roles and responsibilities of a man in the family and also talk about love and understanding, emphasizing that men should love their spouse because if there is love you won't hurt your wife or want to be dominant.

Young women should not be sexually harassed in schools and at work

Young women in schools and the community should desist from provocative dressings by dressing decently

Young women should be protected from risks of rape, domestic violence and communal crisis

Family meetings should hold regularly so that the issue of men dominance can be addressed

Rape/sexually harassed victims should be given a say and once an issue is raised, bodies and agencies like hospitals and security agencies should handle it properly.

Family/community meetings should be held periodically so as to discuss issues of men dominance.

Division of labor of domestic chores should be encouraged.