

# **MODIBBO ADAMA UNIVERSITY, YOLA, ADAMAWA STATE, NIGERIA**

## **YOUNG WOMEN'S WORK AND EDUCATION IN NIGERIA**

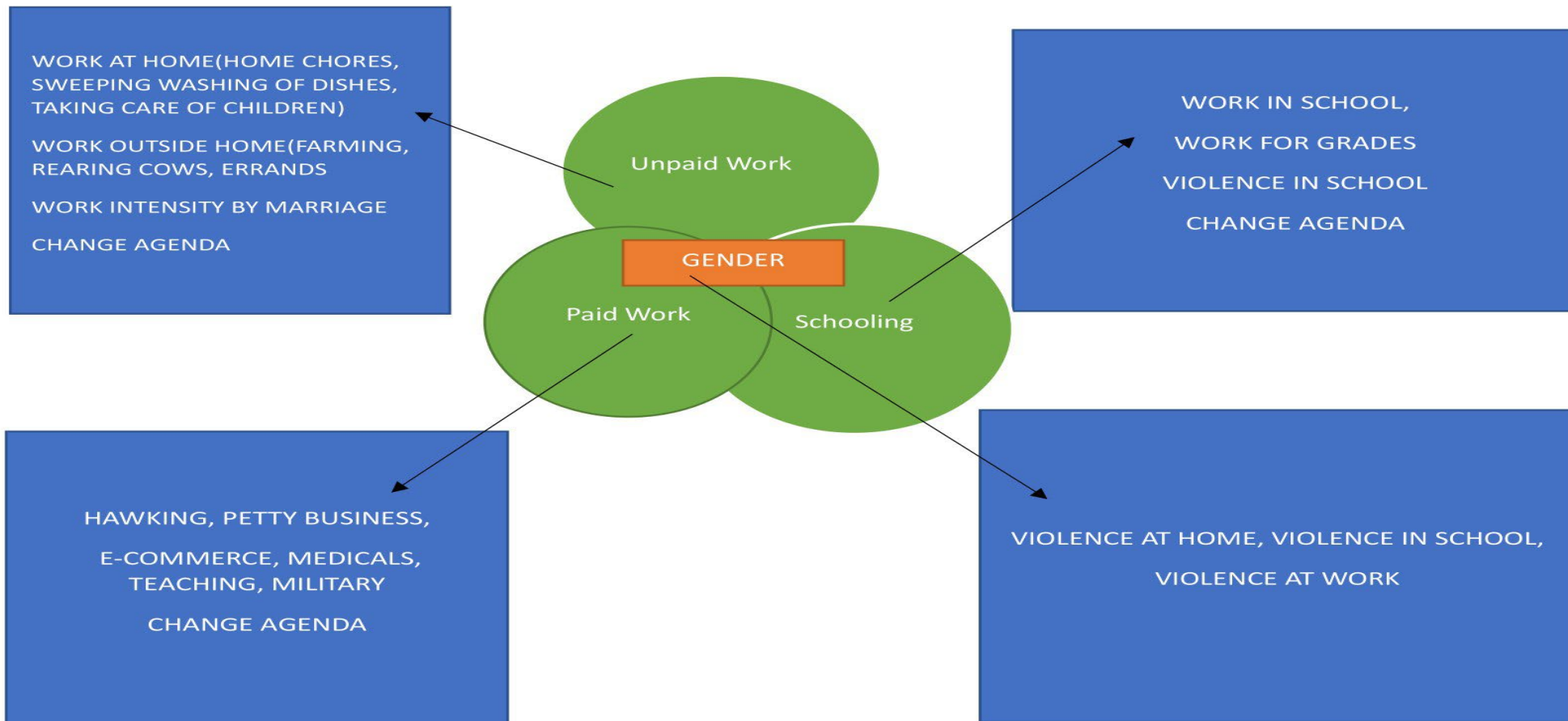
**BY**

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**WE-SAY: Youth gender and Education: Changing Landscape of Work in Rural Sub-Saharan Africa**

# STRUCTURE OF PRESENTATION



# UNPAID WORK AT HOME

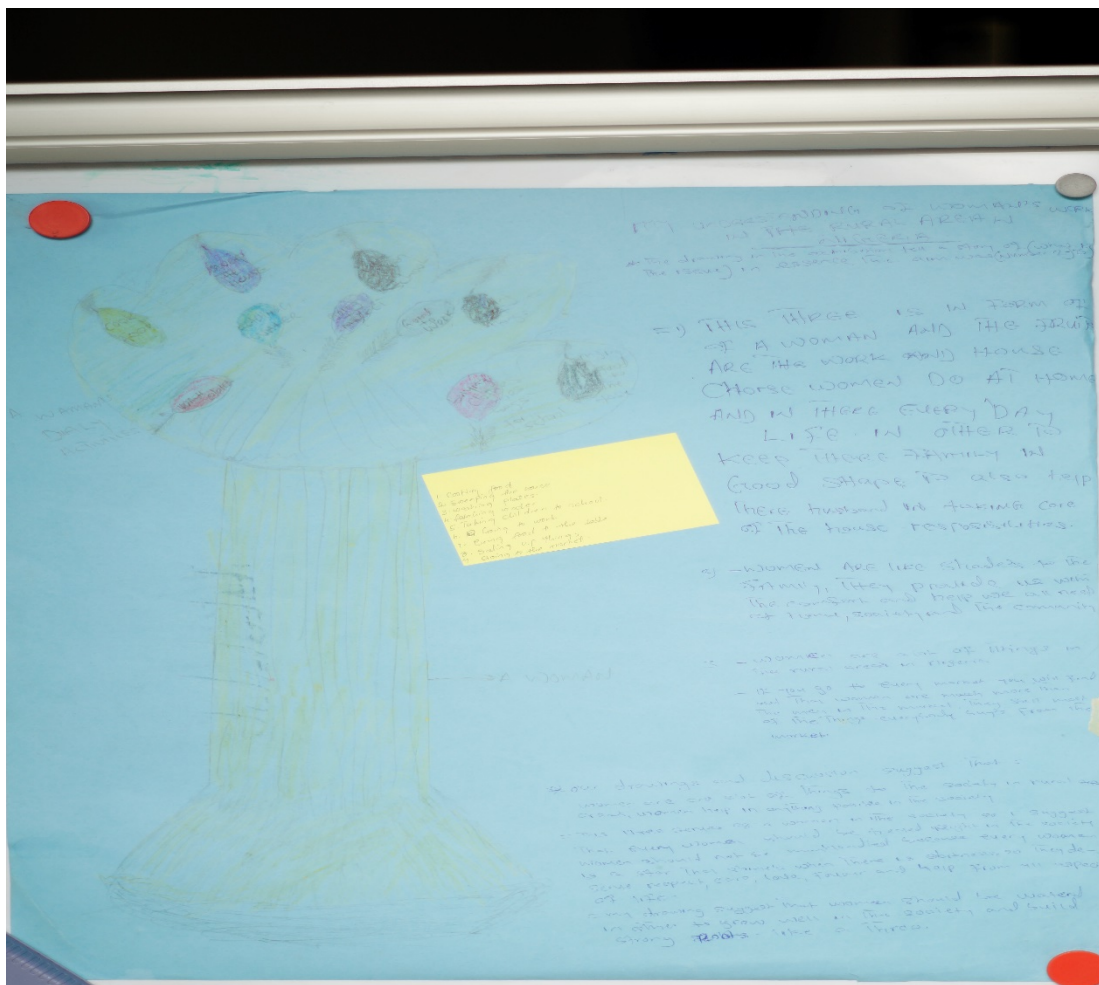
Young women in Nigeria face overwhelming burdens of different types of unpaid work - in the home, in support of the home.

All CRPs did domestic chores typically sweeping, cleaning, washing dishes, laundry, and child care for younger siblings and sometimes CRPs engaged in cooking when older. Mostly done before going to school.

*“I wake up early in the morning to sweep, wash plates hurriedly, I also bath my younger ones and prepare them for school before I leave for school, and they leave for school before me”. G11 Maisha, P3*

*“When I was a child, just like I mentioned earlier..... I washed plates, sweep the house, washed cloths and sometime cook. I also go to the farm sometime to assist my mother” N5, Grovice P.4*

# UNPAID WORK AT HOME



The tree is in the form of a woman and the fruits (**cooking for the family, sweeping the house, washing plates, fetching water, taking children to school, going to work, bring food to the table, selling of things and going to the market**) are the works and house chores young women do at home and in their everyday life in order to keep their family in good shape and also help their husband in taking care of the family responsibilities.

Women are like shades of the family, they provide us with comfort and help we all need at home, society and the community. If you go to every market, you will find out that women are much more than men in the market. They sell most of the goods in the market.

## UNPAID WORK OUTSIDE THE HOME

## CONT'D

Some fetch water, along with boys; some girls not allowed to work outside the home-*Girei Context while girls are allowed to run errands in Numan*

*“I will fetch water from a nearby borehole to fill all the empty drums in the house [..]. we also take corn for processing at the grinding engine for consumption in the home. And anytime my mother doesn't want use to take it to the grinding machine, she will supervise while we pound the corn in the mortar” G8 Amoh, P.5*

Farm work and grazing

Some do farm work and take animals for grazing

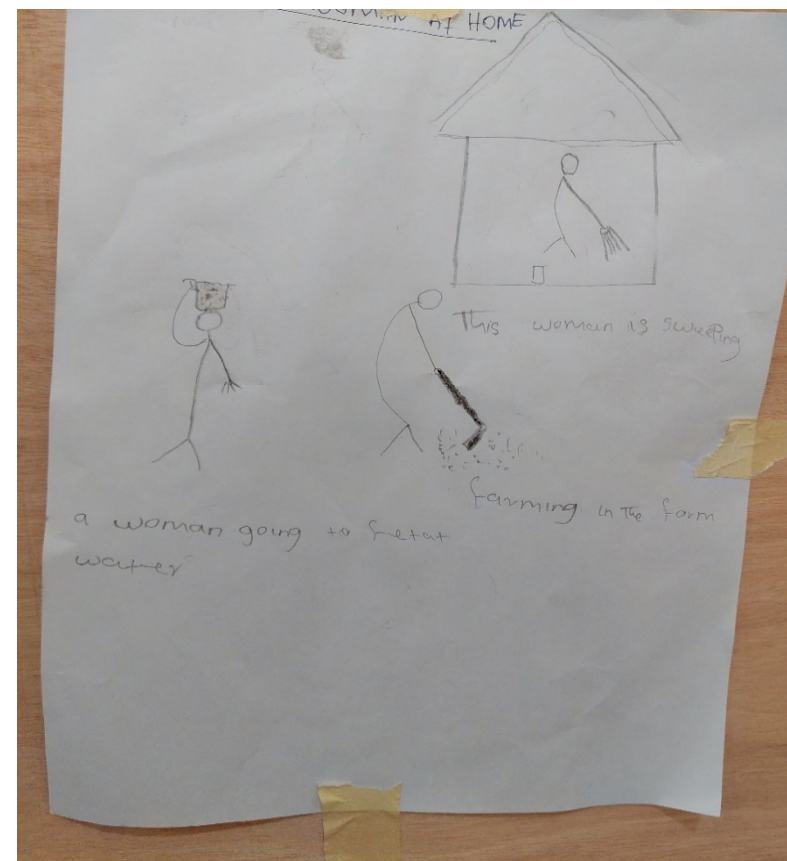
## UNPAID WORK OUTSIDE THE HOME

*“During the rainy season, we assist him on the farmland anytime it rains. We, the children, would go and sow the seed and so also when it was harvesting period, we went and performed the work” G6 Ramatu, p.2*

*“Yes, in the morning when I wake up from bed, I will take the cows out for grazing, after I return” G8 Amoh, P.5*

*“We look after my father's cow including, we the female children, before married, I and my siblings reared the cows” G8 Amoh, p.1*

*“As a child, house chores such as washing of dishes, sweeping of the house and going for errands in the market, and cooking for the family with my mum were the works I did” N3 Humpiya P.5*



- 1. Top is a woman sweeping**
- 2. Right is a woman in the farm**
- 3. Left is a woman going to fetch water**

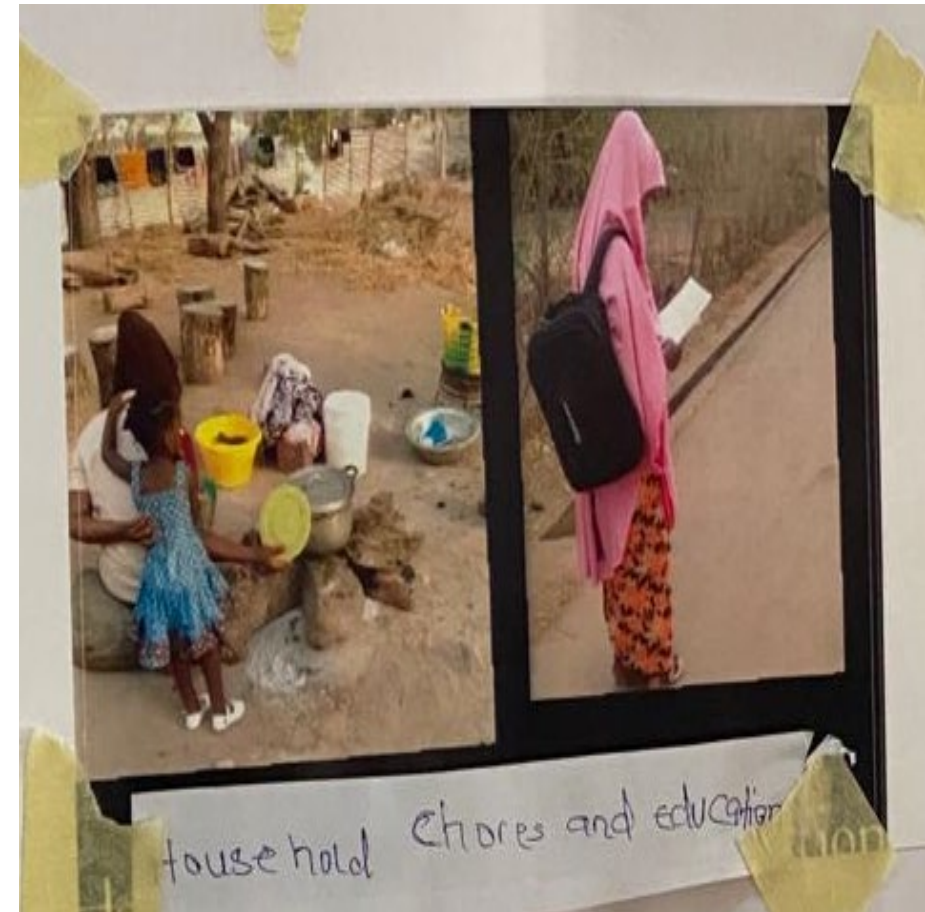
# UNPAID WORK IN THE HOME INTENSIFIES BY MARRIAGE

**Household chores intensify after marriage. Being a mother means additional responsibility...**

*“This new task of marriage coupled with my children has created some changes in my work life.... so, the work load here coupled with too much home chores” G3 Amina 2, P.10*

*“Since you are a nursing mother, the workload increases. For instance, if you were to do laundry for two people, you end up doing for 10”. G2 Aisha, P27*

*...I do this work every day for over 25 years now, there has been no day I skipped the work. .. now that I have children, it seems like the work is increasing though my children assist me with some of the chores before they leave for school. G1 Amara, p.9*



## UNPAID WORK IN SCHOOL

Most CRPs did unpaid work at school - sweeping the compound, picking up litter, weeding and farming, sweeping their classrooms etc.

*“Every Fridays we come to school with brooms and hoes. We clean the school environment. Even though the school environment is cleaned and swept everyday but that of every Fridays was very special because we will clean from morning to around 10:00am then go for break”. N3 Humpiya P.4*

*“We cleaned and picked loitered papers in the school environment and every Thursday; we sweep the school premises. This work was done by both boys and girls”. G11 MAisha, P2*



## UNPAID WORK IN SCHOOL

## CONT'D

**Some of the work done in school also include farming for grades at their teacher's farm. They will be scored according to the yield**

*... “Some teachers especially the agricultural science teachers will insist that we work on their farmland, and plant vegetables for them. When it produces, they teachers will ask us to harvest it for them still and they will leave with everything. They use it to grade us, if the portion of land that you planted produced well, you will be given good grade. and if your portion did not do well, you will not be given good grade”. G12 Rabi, P.4*

## PAID WORK OUTSIDE THE HOME (CHILD)

Young women started earning at early age. they helped their parents to hawk different commodities and they also learn to be financial independent right from that age.

*“When I was a child, I use to hawk when my mum stopped her restaurant because the relocation affected her business. This is due to the reason that her restaurant is far from the house, and the place she was doing her business relocated, because it was a bus station and most of the people there also relocated. So, she had to leave the business and started petty trading, so she uses to give me to hawk”. N1 Godiya, P10*

Some of the CRPs hawked different stuff for their mothers secretly to carter for their needs.

*“We also had to hawk so we can get money to buy toiletries and clothes” G2. Aisha, P.3*

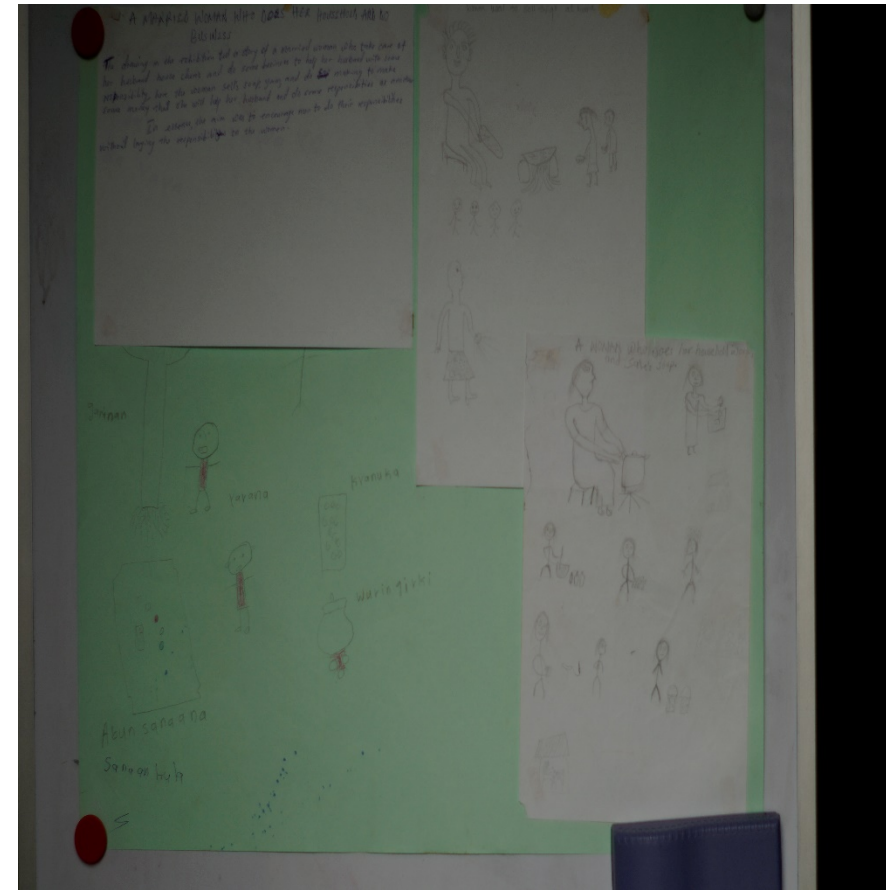


## PAID WORK OUTSIDE THE HOME (NOW)

Although often in the informal economy, almost all CRPs now had some form of paid work – ranging from teaching, online business, tailoring, hair saloon, rearing of animals, doing chores in others' homes and working on peoples farms to earn money for themselves

*it was when I was in tertiary institution that I was making small money from the work I do.. I make hair and I fix nails. the money I made was for myself, to get things I can't ask them for the money". N2 Hilda, p.11*

*"I had to work in people's farm to fund my education. I sponsored myself through school, how I was able to get the money I used was that, when I go and work in a farm and I am paid, I will save the money". N5, Grovice, P.5*



A woman doing house chore and does petty business



# **Gender Violence**

# GENDER VIOLENCE IN UNPAID WORK/HOME

Cellfilms drama in Girei context depicting gender violence in unpaid work/home

## *Philm Scenes*

1. A young woman doing her household chores before going to school
2. She is bathing her children while her friend is waiting for her.
3. She and her friend hurriedly went to school and finished up
4. She is back from school and cooking while her children sit and wait for the food
- 5 The husband came and was asking for his food very angry and shouting
6. Everybody is sleeping while she is reading her books

Video link: <https://youtu.be/RbcPbLHxdVA>

**Young women are only seen as a wife material if they are seen working hard and taking their home responsibility serious**

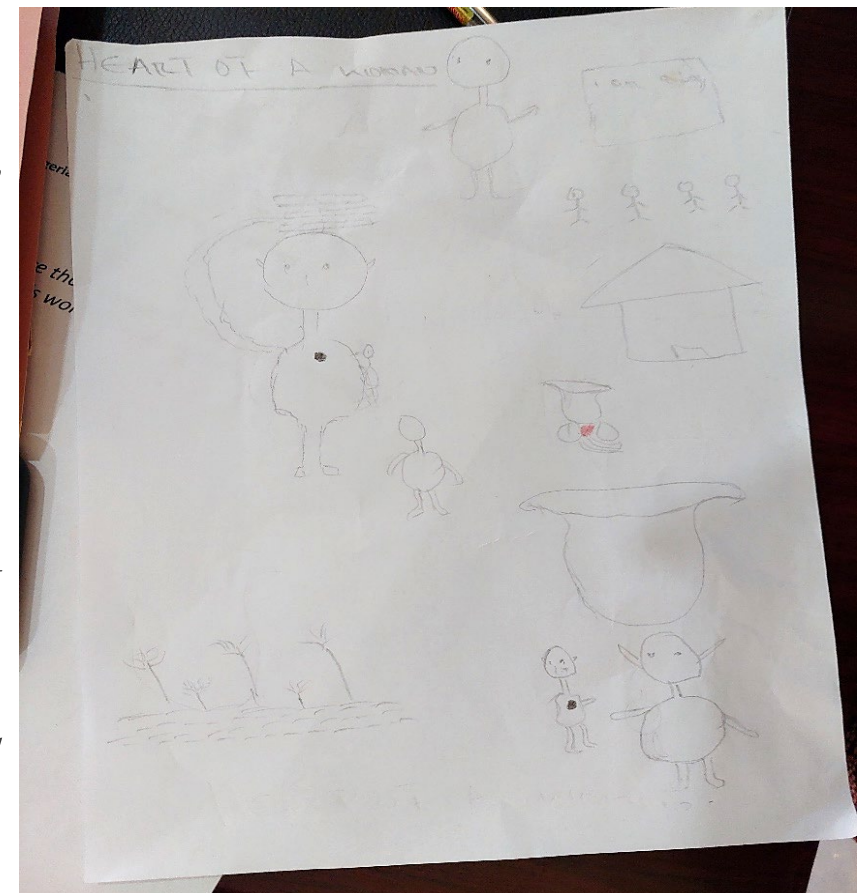
*“Also, people in my community value young women who work hard and takes their homely responsibility seriously, they really appreciate it when they see a young girl cooks, clean and takes care of the house. You will receive a lot of praises from them and they will even call you a “wife material” saying that any man that marries you will be very lucky because you will clean his house, his house will not be dirty, he will be well fed because you cook for your family, so you have mastered the art of cooking and his children will be well taken care of”. N4. Caroline P.8*

## GENDER VIOLENCE IN UNPAID WORK/HOME CONT'D

**Some men take it as their marital right to fulfil their sexual desire irrespective of the wife's condition**

*“Our religion makes it compulsory on the wife to allow her husband have sex with her any time. The only thing is that we are suggesting for the spouse to have good understanding so that the husband will sometime, allow her rest if she is tired” ... G5, TMaryam, Posters and Policy Briefs P.42*

*“A lot of women passing through a lot. For example, here is a woman with a baby on her back, in a farm, after farm work she will get firewood and when she returned home from the farm she has to cook. After cooking she will go out and fetch water. She is a school teacher. The husband is only concerned with drinking alcohol. While he drinks, he beats and bully the wife”. N12Remi, drawing workshop*



# GENDER VIOLENCE IN PAID WORK

**Some young women engaging in paid work face censorship by their community**

*“...I do online business and meet with customers from time to time but our community are divided over this. Some felt you are too exposed; some feel you are wayward. G1, Maisha, P.12”*

**CRPs N9 and N11 see gender as a barrier for them getting job**

*“In life we would have been different because men have advantage than women, advantage in the sense that a man can work more than I can do and men are generally stronger than women”. N11 Gunoshi, P.9*

**Some young women are being denied promotion or delay in their salary payment intentionally by their superior for refusing to offer them sex or bribe**

*“Harassment (delay in salary payment or they might even cut off your salary, in terms of promotion, if your boss is male, he may demand for sexual relationship from the lady, maybe sex for promotion, or request for money in a form of bribery. And if you don't abide by what he requested, you will not be promoted)”. N2, Hilda, Posters and Policy Briefs, P.6*

## GENDER VIOLENCE IN PAID WORK

## CONT'D

*“In civil service, when it comes to promotion, your boss will always hinder you. The boss will either demand for money or sex if it is an opposite sex” N5, Grovice, Posters and policy brief, P.6*

*“Some men request women to give them bribe or have sex with them before employing them”. G12, Rabi, Posters and Policy Briefs P.7*

*“like women in the military face this challenge, people consider them as irresponsible. In the area of health, people accuse women of doing many ill things. If a woman has night duty, people accuse them of having some relationship with other men. If a woman nurse does night duty for seven consecutive days, people ask why is her work always in the night. At times they even accuse her of having sexual relationship with other men outside. That is all the challenges we were able to come up with”... G4 Madina, Posters and Policy Briefs P. 12*



## GENDER VIOLENCE IN RELATION TO ACCESS TO SCHOOLING

**Pressure from parents for young girls to leave school and get married due to culture and traditions-**Girei context****

*“Our father didn’t like the idea of going to school at an early age. My father gave birth to not less than 30 children. He had 20 daughters, none of them went to school except only three of us attended schools. Even the three of us had to do it gradually with the support of one of our brothers” G6 Habiba, P.3*

## GENDER VIOLENCE IN RELATION TO ACCESS TO SCHOOLING

CONT'D

**CRPs in Numan are allowed access to schooling by parents but for poverty.** *“The challenges are money to go to school”* N2 Hilda P.21

*“It is a woman whose daughter does not go to school because she cannot afford the expense to send her child to school. If she asks her husband for money, he responds aggressively by beating her and he will not assist her by contributing some funds so they can send their girl child to school. In the diagram, it is the man that is beating the wife because she asked him of money so they can send their child to school, the man doesn't assist her. But he will go to the beer parlor to go and drink alcohol”. N7 Madadi, community mapping*

# GENDER VIOLENCE IN RELATION TO COMPLETION OF SCHOOLING

**G3 was pressured from relatives to leave school and get married**

*“Before I finished JSS one, my father brought out his wish to get me married. I was not happy with it at all. I cried a lot. But he insisted that I should be married off” G3 Amina P.9*

**N7 got pregnant when at secondary school and faced so many challenges especially from her father. Had to drop out of school, managed to write final Exams, yet could not further education**

*“When I was enrolled in school, I got pregnant gave birth to my first child while in school, so I faced so many challenges. So, I dropped out of school, I was in secondary school as of the time I was pregnant, I was in my final year of studies when it happened. Though I wrote the final examination which is the West Africa Examination Council (WAEC) and the National Examination Council (NECO). So, I was not able to further for a higher degree, I couldn't continue with my studies. So, I stopped at secondary” N7 Madadi P.5*

## GENDER VIOLENCE IN SCHOOL

### **Some lecturers demand sex from female students to upgrade their scores**

*“Harassment, that is, sex for grade from lecturers. Some lecturers will demand for sex from the students so they can grade the student higher. This happens when the lecturer is a man and the student is a female. In the case of female lecturers harassing the male students for sex is very rare. The case of male student been harassed by female lecturers for sex, is very rare. Mostly, the women lecturers will rather ask for money from the male students.” ..... N2 Hilda posters and policy briefs. P.10*

### **Some young women despite married are being punished when they come late to school without any consideration.**

*“Any time I arrive the school late, I was punished: they will beat me, cause me to do frog jump etc. The school authority kept saying they don't care with my marriage because according to them “their school was not meant for married people”.. G3 Amina, p.10*



# **Young women's agenda for change**

## DOMESTIC WORK

Men should be involved in taking care of children and in all domestic chores

Division of labour of domestic chores should be encouraged.

*“beating of women should be stopped. And taking care of children should be alternated between the parents. Husband should bath children while wife should cook food. Then how can this be addressed? Through education. If women are enrolled in schools, they will not engage in street hawking”. G4 Madina, posters and policy brief.*

## PAID WORK

Empowerment/skills acquisition centres should be built with equipment that cater for young women skills development

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

## EDUCATION

Young women should be supported by husbands, parents and the community to attain higher levels of education

Parents, community and government should support young women to attain higher levels of education, because when they are educated, they won't be victimized



## CONCLUSION

- Young women in Nigeria face overwhelming burdens of unpaid work-in the home, in school along with paid work. e.g. sweeping, washing dishes, laundry, cooking and taking care of their younger ones when older and hawking
- Young women face multiple forms of gender violence-in the home, in school and in their paid work
- These multiple forms of gender violence make young women's access to education extremely difficult
- Early marriage and childbirth halts schooling for many but some persist and complete their education, but only possible with male support