

WOMEN IN SURVEYING

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ABSTRACT

“Surveying the bedrock of every meaningful development” says the motto of the surveying profession reveals the relevance of the profession in all spheres of meaningful development and growth. Though, it is known for rigor, accuracy and precision but its contribution to industrialization cannot be over emphasized. This paper therefore necessitates generally the hallucination of women in surveying to bring about more essential and adaptive changes in industrialization within the scope of the mission, vision and goal of the surveying profession. Also, the importance of surveying and the role of surveyors in industrialization were discussed. The topic women in surveying entails the role of women in surveying in moving the economy, thus helping in social and economic growth, the challenges of female surveyor in Nigeria and how women can be encouraged to participate in industrialization were discoursed. Summary was drawn and recommendation was made on how the topic can successfully and resourcefully transform our society Nigeria for better.

Keywords: Surveying, Women, Industrialization, Nigeria

1. INTRODUCTION

Surveying is the art of measuring horizontal and vertical distances between objects, of measuring angles between lines, of determining the direction of lines, and of establishing points by predetermined angular and linear measurements.

Land surveying is basically an art and science of mapping and measuring land. The entire scope of profession is wide; it actually boils down to calculate where the land boundaries are situated. This is very important as without this service, there would not have been railroads, skyscrapers could not have been erected and neither any individual could have put fences around their yards for not intruding others land.

Land surveying isn't exactly a new industry, but it is a new age where women are making their mark. As long as there has been property to divide, people, specifically men, were needed to set proper boundaries that people and governments recognized. Then in the early 1900s, women made their first official move into the industry. Progress has been slow, but they've never looked back. There's nothing about land surveying that poses a greater challenge for women than men, at least not aside from outdated ideas and traditions. Men still dominate the industry, but that gives women one more opportunity to break through an unnecessary barrier and build a profitable, rewarding career. (Academy, 2017).

A Surveyor is a professional person with the academic qualification and technical expertise to practice the science of measurement; assemble and assess geographically related information; use that information for the purpose of planning and implementing efficient administration of the land, the sea and structures thereon; and instigate the advancement and development of such practices (Asoegwu, 1996, Kufoniyi, 1997).

Magel (2005) observed that “Surveyors should play a visible role in the society and that they should also be actively involved in the provision of reliable data for planning, contributing meaningfully to urban and rural development, valuation and real estate management and environmental decision making. Much cannot be achieved in this regard if the women surveyors are neglected or relegated to the background. This responsibility placed on Surveyors to ensure that the environment is ordered is a holistic one. Thus, there is need to harness the enviable contributions of women in surveying because Women Surveyors by their nature are “enablers for the local people and the less privileged”, mediators between citizens and authorities and Advisors to politicians and state institutions”, they are very compassionate in their professional practice. A nation cannot have any meaningful development without adequate and up-to-date Geo information. This is evident in engineering constructions and civil

works (new roads, bridges and high rising buildings), location based services like communication lines, power, and steel, sewage lines etc. Before any meaningful or sustainable development is achieved the Surveyor or the Geospatial expert must provide the pertinent information or baseline data for engineering designs and subsequent construction works. Women Surveyors have the track record of been amongst the industry's best as they are not known in any way to compromise standards and best practices. (CHIGBU Jennifer Eziaku, 2013).

2. THE ROLE OF SURVEYORS IN INDUSTRIALIZATION

1. Surveyors are responsible for the production of small and large scale maps as well as survey plans to enable the planner to design layouts, roads and locations of infrastructures. Hence the surveyors have invaluable input in the acquisition of foundation data which have varied uses in terms of development in rural and urban areas.
2. Roads are very critical to development and surveyors need to set out roads to enable the highways engineer design and construct them, other infrastructures such as electricity, pipe borne water, and sewer lines need alignment or level to be set out based on given or required specification.
3. Surveyors Provides the "Title Deed Plan's" (TDP) which is used for customary statutory right of occupancy,(this is a right of ownership established on custom rather than common law or statute i.e. customary occupancy which is still very much prevalent , the distribution of rights which is based on socio-political system, the political history or the village and region from which the alliances and hierarchical relationships between lineages and derived . and on family relationships (access to land and resources depending on one's social status within the family) so that social networks govern access right (Berry ,1993 , Umezulike, 2004) is also ,worth noting that in most of this decisions about land are taken by chiefs or headmen on behalf of the and in trust for the clan or family). Large scale plans are fundamental to development and planning of educational facilities, health, recreational and security etc.
4. Housing – Surveyor need to provide maps and data input for GIS various settlement which would aid the government in providing materials for regularization of titles, ensure guidance on the location of health and educational facilities as well as the location of police stations.

3. WOMEN IN SURVEYING

The Nigeria Institution of surveyor's which was established in 1934, was one of the oldest organized professional Bodies in Nigeria. The Institution was initially as "Licensed Surveyors Association" which was later renamed the "Land Surveyors Association of Nigeria" with the late Surv. C. T. Olumide as chairman, whose memories is now engraved in an annual lecture tagged "OLUMIDE MEMORIAL LECTURE". In 1966, the present name "Nigerian Institution of Surveyors" was adopted. The Nigerian Institution of Surveyors is the umbrella professional organization for all surveyors in Nigeria, whether in private practice, Government or Academia.

Women in surveying (WIS) is the women arm of the Nigerian Institution of Surveyors. Women-in-Surveying in Nigeria as a professional body started about ten years ago under the leadership of Surv F.K. Omatsola (Fnis) and the membership of this Association currently is about two hundred and fifty .The essence of this feminist gender arm of Nigerian Institution of Surveyors borders on the pursuance and achieving of the objectives of MGDs. Surveying particularly had for decades been monopolized by the men but today the story is quite different, despite the challenges faced by women in surveying profession, the hardworking and committed female Surveyors have made land mark achievementsfor example, the first woman Surveyor General of the Federal Republic of Nigeria was Late Mrs. Yinka Adekoya known as "SUPER GIRL". In Lagos state of Nigerian the first female surveyor to become permanent secretary was Alhaja I.O Fassai..These women have contributed in no small measure in the upliftment of professionalism during their reign. (CHIGBU Jennifer Eziaku, 2013).

It will not be out of place to mention some of them that has got to the pinnacle of the professions, which among many include.

- The zonal surveyor, Yebu-Ode Surv.(Mrs.) A.O Adeyokunnu Surv.(Ms.) Remi Akinlude.
- The former Surveyor General of Lagos State who is the first female surveyor to become permanent secretary in Lagos State, Surv. (Alhaja) I.O Fassai.

- Surv. (Mrs.) J.O Asenuga, Coordinator women in Surveying Wealth Region.
- Surv. (Mrs.) S.O Adekunle, principle partner of S.O Adekunle and Associates.
- Surv. (Mrs.) A.S Abiba principal partner of final points surveys.
- The national coordinator women in surveying and Deputy Surveyor-General of Delta State, Surv. Pastor (Mrs) F.x. Omotsola.

Women in surveying have heads prominent Departments in the Countries and some are distinguished lectures in our Universities today.

The Role of Women in Surveying

Mostly since surveying takes leads in all developments, planners from different areas, government, individuals that want to start one project or the other area always waiting for the surveyors to take the project to the next level. Therefore, many people are depending on the result of surveyors for progress in their projects, it is of paramount importance for her to be of high integrity.

Looking at the high technical demand and stress involved in surveying, it takes a winning woman not to quit but to strive hard in order to acquire data for development For a woman a gentle feminine touch and humble spirit will give her an edge. At times, as a woman, your job will take you to a cultural environment where women are not allowed to hold meeting with men, talk more of talking in their midst, but with your professional privilege you will be allowed, and in such places, you need wisdom, humility and favor to succeed because it's a great disrespect of culture to many. Also there places where a male surveyor cannot enter due to the volatile nature of the job. As a female surveyor in Nigeria, you can go in there and execute the job successfully with results. The reason is that most of them had never seen a female surveyor, more so when they think that it is not a woman's profession. Also most men abhor manhandling women or ruffle them, so in the midst of scuffle, they treaty them with care.

Women naturally are peace makers and so women in surveying are great peacemakers in volatile land disputes cases, so also, women are natural communities relation experts in off shore environment, they are conscious of safety in performing their duties, no wonder Surv. (Mrs.) Elizabeth Oluwadara Olayiwola won an award in safety issue in Geomatics Department of Shell Petroleum Development Company Limited (SPDC) west in the year 2000. Also management of caters offshore is best left to the female surveyors who will co-ordinate it in a hygiene and safe way. In Nigeria women ninety percent believe is that women place is in the kitchen meaning that women are best caters. It is well known that a feminine touch in every vocation brings a perfection that is absent in all male crew, it refines and sanitizes the group. (Benedicta UGWULEBO, 2010)

Women Surveyors are actively involved in the provision of geospatial data required for planning and execution of associated projects for sustainable development. They are known also to have contributed in providing environmental data that aids in reduction of environmental vulnerability hazards such as natural disaster, desertification, flooding, collapse of houses and bridges.

Women in surveying like their male counterparts also have contributed in the production of large scale plans which are fundamental datasets for development and planning of educational facilities, health, recreational and security etc.

In terms of housing, their roles cannot be underestimated. Most female Surveyors are GIS experts and their professional inputs have aided the government in the provision of materials for title regularization, ensuring guidance on the location of health and educational facilities as well as the location of police stations and other infrastructures.

For a Nation to have sustainable roads, Surveyor needs to set out roads, provide their height and other necessary information that will enable the Highway Engineer to design and construct good roads. A good number of women Surveyors are actively involved in this sector.

There is need to integrate the Women in Surveying in Nigeria into all facets of the geospatial data provision for use in development of the spatial data infrastructure policy of Nigeria for sustainable development.

The women in surveying are advocacy tools for promoting and encouraging more young women to choose scientific careers, combating gender inequality and helping in the realization of the goals of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGS) and sustainable national development. (CHIGBU Jennifer Eziaku, 2013)

4. CHALLENGES OF FEMALE SURVEYOR IN NIGERIA

Women in Nigeria have had various challenges in order to obtain equal education in all forms of formal education in Nigeria. Education is a basic human right and has been recognized as such since the 1948 adoption of the universal declaration on human rights. A positive correlation exists between the enrollment of girls in primary school and the gross national product and increase of life expectancy. Because of this correlation, enrollment in schools represents the largest component of the investment in human capital in any society. Rapid socio-economic development of a nation has been observed to depend on the caliber of women and their education in that country. Education bestows on women a disposition for a lifelong acquisition of knowledge, values, attitudes, competence and skills. To ensure equal access to education, the national policy on education states that access to education is a right for all Nigerian children regardless of gender, religion and disability. (Dauda, 2007)

Nevertheless, it is abundantly clear that in some area in Nigerian, that before the Nigerian female attains a level in education commensurate with their more than half the population status, mountains will literally have to move. Women in surveying face the challenges of male ego from subordinates, superiors and even colleagues who mostly that woman should be in the kitchen or at best are in classrooms. When it comes to fieldwork such as the survey camp, where mountains have to be climbed, creeks to be crossed, offshore projects to be carried out women are looked down upon as though in capable, but look at it this way, fieldwork and frail women, what a marvelous mix? Women in surveying maybe frail but their stamina and strength are remarkable enduring.

As a woman in surveying the changes start from the training, in a course of study. A woman in surveying in the making must learn are earn how to have sharp mind and brain for qualitative reasoning because every measurement and calculation must be accurate to achieve reliable results that is presentable worldwide. Training is not only the study in the lecture room, library and laboratory which are conducive environment, but in rigorous fieldwork that will take you to different terrains such as on land, on rock, in swamp, in space and on water as may be required, in most cases; you are exposed to harsh weather conditions. Also there are sacred bush in some places that are refer to as “no-go area” female surveyors must have good human relation as a preparation for challenges on her job after training, this will help her to undertake and type of project that may come her way and make her an achiever. It is after favorable academic institution result, she will face the challenges of preparation for professional qualifications, and studying under her supervisor for two years or more followed by examinations that will qualify her professionally. A woman in surveying must be very hard working and of great commitment, she must have and enduring spirit because clients want their job delivered as early as possible. (Benedicta UGWULEBO, 2010).

Evidently, in Nigeria, the Survey council of Nigeria (SURCON) which is the body legally empowered to regulate the practice of the surveying profession activities in the country in all ramifications has a Council made of 59 members, as follows:

- The President of the Council, who is appointed by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria,
- 36 Surveyors General of the States,
- The Director of Survey & Mapping, FCT,
- 12 Representatives elected by the Nigerian Institution of Surveyors,
- 5 Representatives of the Federal Government including the Surveyor General of the Federation and
- 4 Representatives of Institutions of higher learning offering Surveying & Geo-informatics.

However, only two women are in this council of fifty-nine members (59). In this council there is no way they can make a positive impact in policy and decision making level in this council.

Again, the Nigerian Institution of Surveyors (NIS), on whose auspices this global gathering is made today has a council which is the highest decision making body. The council is composed of the elected Executives Officers, representative of State Branches, Women-in-Surveying, the Academia, Association of Private Practicing Surveyors (APPSN) and other recognized sub-group. Ironically, the council has less than three (3) women in their fold. The representation of women in Nigerian Institution of Surveyors (NIS) council and the Survey council of Nigeria (SURCON) show that the professional body and the regulatory body are not gender sensitive.

Therefore, the contribution of women toward the overall development of the country will be minimal. This is inimical to the global objective of female integration to sustainable development. Women by their nature have varied preferences from men in choosing their academic field, and the pattern is similar in developing countries like Nigeria and most industrialized countries. Women are more likely to enroll in humanities, arts and education, with social sciences the next preference, while natural science and engineering is the least favored field. (CHIGBU Jennifer Eziaku, 2013).

Encouraging Women Participation in Industrialization

The rate at which women are excluded from formal and traditional policy and decision making roles regarding industrialization and development is large, however, in various ways where they have been involved they have immensely contributed their quota in matters that pertains to industrialization, therefore, it is essential to observe that granting women the privilege of equitable role in industrialization decision making would yield rapid and commitment to the solution of developmental challenges rather than seeing them as irrelevant and weaker entity. Women must be seen as capable partners in sustainable development, and not simply as victims of environmental degradation or even solely as beneficiaries of development initiatives. The strength of women in making decision on industrial development and its management cannot be overemphasized because of God's endowed potential in them. For women to respond to economic growth or social change, they should have access to available resources, financial credits, information and technical assistance.

5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Conclusion

Due to limited involvement and participation of women in the body legally empowered to regulate the practice of surveying activities in the country, there is therefore, the need for corresponding change in the Nigeria surveyor's world view and proactive, success will depend on the ability of our surveyors to transform them.

5.2 Recommendation

Having critically considered the desirable roles women have played in surveying, the following suggestions are hereby proffered:

Women of vision, who are able to set long term goals, develop strategies to bring about more fundamental and adaptive changes are needed at the top.

There is need for the regulating body SURCON (surveyors registration council of Nigeria) and NIS (Nigeria institution of surveyors) to re-orient the value system of members (males) towards the female gender and her contribution to the profession.

Women who have made meaningful contributions to the profession like their male counterparts should be celebrated and immortalized. This will elicit more meaningful and sustainable contributions from the female surveyors.

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