

## GENDERED MEDIA COVERAGE: EXAMINING THE PORTRAYAL OF FEMALE POLITICIANS IN NIGERIA

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### Abstract

Media plays a pivotal role in shaping public opinion, political narratives, and societal perceptions. However, research indicates that the media often portrays female politicians in a gendered manner, perpetuating stereotypes and biases. This paper aims at exploring the issue of gendered media coverage and its impact on the portrayal of female politicians. The abstract begins by highlighting the significance of media in political communication and its influence on public perceptions. It then delves into the gender disparities observed in media coverage, particularly focusing on the challenges faced by female politicians. The paper discusses how female politicians are often subjected to different standards, scrutinized for their appearance, and their qualifications questioned in ways that their male counterparts are not. Furthermore, the abstract examines the impact of gendered media coverage on public perception and political representation. It explores how the portrayal of female politicians as less competent, emotional, or focused on personal matters can undermine their credibility and hinder their electoral prospects. Moreover, the paper investigates the implications of such coverage for gender equality in politics and the broader consequences for democratic governance. To address these issues, the abstract presents potential strategies and solutions. It discusses the importance of media organizations adopting gender-sensitive guidelines and training for journalists to promote fair and balanced coverage of female politicians. It also emphasizes the need for increased representation of women in media leadership positions and the importance of collaboration between media outlets and women's organizations. Finally, this paper used the philosophical method of hermeneutics (interpretation) in addressing this issue of the media bias when it comes to female politicians hoping to create a more inclusive political landscape.

**Keywords:** Gendered media, Female politicians, Media bias, Gender disparities, Stereotypes

### Introduction

In the realm of politics, the media serves as a powerful force in shaping public opinion, influencing political discourse, and framing the narratives surrounding political figures. However, an inherent gender bias often taints media portrayals, particularly when it comes to female politicians. Research has consistently shown that media coverage of female politicians is riddled with gender biases and stereotypes that

undermine their credibility and hinder their political careers. Studies examining media portrayals have revealed a tendency to focus on women's appearance, personal lives, and emotional reactions, rather than their political accomplishments and policy positions. Such gendered media coverage reinforces traditional gender norms and perpetuates stereotypes that women are less competent or suited for leadership roles. The impact of gendered media coverage extends beyond the individual level. It influences public perception, shaping the narratives surrounding women's political participation. Research has shown that media biases and stereotypes can undermine the electoral prospects of female candidates, leading to diminished public trust and support. Consequently, gender disparities persist in political representation, limiting the advancement of gender equality and impeding democratic governance.

Addressing gendered media coverage requires a multi-faceted approach involving media organizations, journalists, and society at large. It is also worthy to mention that developing and implementing gender-sensitive guidelines inside newsrooms can help to promote fair and balanced coverage that emphasizes women's qualifications, policy positions, and achievements. Encouraging greater representation of women in media leadership positions is also crucial for diversifying perspectives and challenging gender biases within the industry. Collaboration between media outlets and women's organizations can further catalyze change. By raising awareness, fostering dialogue, and holding media accountable for biased portrayals, strides can be made towards a more inclusive and equitable media landscape. The adoption of media monitoring systems and the promotion of media literacy can also empower the public to critically engage with gendered media coverage and demand fairer representations of female politicians.

Gendered media coverage poses a significant challenge for female politicians and the broader pursuit of gender equality in politics. The biased portrayal of women in the media perpetuates stereotypes, undermines their political credibility, and hampers their advancement in the political sphere. By critically examining and challenging gendered media coverage, media organizations and society as a whole can contribute to fostering a more inclusive and representative democracy.

### **Conceptual Studies Gendered Media**

Gendered media refers to the ways in which media outlets and platforms perpetuate and reinforce gender stereotypes, biases, and unequal representations of men and women. It encompasses the portrayal, coverage, and framing of gender-related issues in various media forms, including television, film, news, advertising, and digital media. Scholarly definitions on gendered media provide a nuanced understanding of its impact on society. Here are a few definitions of Gendered Media:

“Gendered media refers to media content, practices, and institutions that reflect and perpetuate traditional gender roles, stereotypes, and power dynamics, shaping and reinforcing societal expectations and ideals of femininity and masculinity.” (Dill: 2017). “Gendered media encompasses the representation and symbolic imagery, narratives, and discourses that construct and communicate ideas about gender, influencing the ways in which individuals understand themselves and others in relation to gender identity, roles, and expectations.” (Gill: 2007) .

Gavey (2003) says that: "Gendered media can be understood as a complex network of media products and practices that contribute to the social construction of gender, influencing individuals' self-perceptions, attitudes, and behaviors, and perpetuating

gender inequalities.” Bartsch & Moriarty (2019) say that: “Gendered media involves the examination of how media representations and narratives reinforce and challenge traditional gender binaries, norms, and stereotypes, influencing the construction of gender identities and social hierarchies”. These definitions provide a foundation for understanding the concept of gendered media and its influence on society, highlighting its role in shaping attitudes, perceptions, and behaviors related to gender.

Gendered media can shape societal perceptions, influence cultural norms, and impact individuals' understanding of gender roles and identities. (Ross:2012) says that: “Gendered media encompasses the ways in which media institutions, practices, and discourses produce, reproduce, and reinforce gendered meanings, hierarchies, and power relations, shaping and influencing societal understandings of gender and influencing the construction of gender identities”. Gill, R. (2007) offers a: “comprehensive exploration of gendered media representations and their effects on individuals and society.” The author critically analyzes various media forms, including advertising, news, and popular culture, to reveal how gender stereotypes are constructed, maintained, and challenged. Gill, R. (2007) work, examines the power dynamics at play in media industries and explores the implications of gendered media for social, cultural, and political contexts. Gill's work provides valuable insights into the complexities of gendered media and its impact on gender equality and representation. Dill and Thill (2007) examine the: “gendered portrayals of characters in video games and the impact on young individuals' perceptions of gender roles”. It demonstrates how media, in this case, video games, can contribute to the socialization of gender norms and reinforce stereotypes. The study highlights the importance of critically analyzing gendered media representations and their potential influence on individuals' beliefs and attitudes.

Gendered media plays a significant role in shaping societal perceptions, constructing and reinforcing gender norms, and influencing individual attitudes and behaviors. It often reflects and perpetuates traditional gender roles, where women are often portrayed in limited and stereotypical ways, such as being portrayed as passive, overly sexualized, or solely focused on relationships and appearance. Men, on the other hand, are typically portrayed as strong, assertive, and in positions of power. The impact of gendered media extends beyond individual viewers to society as a whole. It influences cultural norms, contributes to the construction of gender identities, and can perpetuate gender inequalities and discrimination. Gendered media representations can affect how individuals perceive their own capabilities, aspirations, and worth, and can limit the opportunities and roles they envision for themselves.

However, there has been a growing recognition of the need to challenge and change gendered media representations. Advocacy groups, scholars, and media organizations are calling for more diverse and inclusive representations that break free from traditional gender norms. Efforts are being made to showcase a broader range of gender identities, challenge stereotypes, and provide more nuanced and realistic portrayals of men and women. Promoting gender equality in media requires a multi-faceted approach. It involves encouraging media organizations to adopt gender-sensitive guidelines and practices, promoting diversity and representation both in front of and behind the camera, and supporting critical media literacy to enable individuals to analyze and challenge gendered media messages.

By transforming gendered media representations, there is an opportunity to create a more inclusive and equitable media landscape that reflects the diversity of human experiences, challenges harmful stereotypes, and contributes to the empowerment and equality of all genders. Overall, gendered media influences how individuals perceive and understand gender, constructs societal norms, and has a profound impact on gender equality. Recognizing and challenging gendered media representations is essential for creating a more inclusive and equitable society especially where it comes to female politicians.

### **Female Politicians**

Krook & O'Brien, (2021) say that: "Female politicians are women who are engaged in the formal political arena, seeking to exercise political power, influence policies, and represent their constituents' interests, challenging gender biases and promoting gender equality in the political realm." Nigeria is one of the countries that has been a largely male-dominated society and almost everything has been about the men taken a closer look at the last concluded presidential elections, Ago-Iwoye, from Nigeria wrote a report that was published by Rahma Jimoh On 16 Feb 2023 on Aljazeera. The report is posted here as it was written and it was written that:

-----On June 8, 2022, millions of Nigerians were glued to their phones, televisions, and other devices, watching the presidential primaries of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC). Then something happened. Uju Ken Ohanenye, the only woman among the 23 aspirants, withdrew from the contest in favor of the eventual winner and national leader of the party, Bola Tinubu. "I have decided to step aside for the lifesaver who is Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu," the lawyer and entrepreneur who had previously told journalists that "the touch of a woman is lacking in the governance of this country", said on national television. For some Nigerians, it was a step back for gender equality in the country's politics but also a timely reminder of the many hurdles women face in attaining leadership roles in this vast West African country. "[Ohanenye] might have believed she was not going to win because of the financial and political limitations she would have to surpass," said Antoinette Lecky, Lagos-based media personality and former projects lead at "Elect Her", a nonprofit organization focused on getting more women into political leadership. "[But] it gave her a chance to publicize herself as a lot of people did not know who she was at the time." Half of Nigeria's estimated 210 million people are women. But only one woman has ever occupied any of the top four positions in Nigerian governance – a five-month stint as speaker in 2007 – since the country's independence from Britain in 1960. Only five percent of Nigeria's federal lawmakers are women, one of the lowest representation rates globally. And no woman has ever been elected governor. Traditional African societies from experience show that women have been marginalized and discriminated on from realizing their full potentials outside their already known domestic responsibilities. The one's who dared to come out are many a times bullied into resigning and hiding back inside their net. Sally Osei-Appiah (2019) noted that:

Women politicians have long been marginalised in the political arena, aided in part by gender roles which prescribe what a woman can and cannot do, and patriarchal systems which establish, reinforce and sustain these roles.

Increasing the visibility of women politicians is therefore a form of contestation against these structural barriers. It breaks the male dominance in politics while serving

as a reference point to encourage more women into politics. However, studies on women politicians' media coverage point to gender biases that favour male politicians in both quantity and quality. While coverage of male politicians is generally issue-based, demonstrating their policy views, that of female politicians is refracted through the gendered lens of marginalisation and sexist reporting. Given the increasing mediatisation of contemporary politics, a trend that has positioned the media as the prime provider of political information, this media bias against women politicians undermines not only their political careers but also the very fibre of representative democracy

O'Neill et al(2016) note that “women politicians are typically portrayed through “misogynistic gendered stereotypes or frames”.

### **Media bias**

Media bias could be defined as the unjust favoritism and reporting of a certain ideas or standpoint from one's personal view or view of others. Media bias according to study.com (2021) occurs when a journalist or news outlet allows opinions to affect the news they report. Iyengar, (2015) says that: “Media bias refers to the systematic and consistent favoritism, omission, or distortion of information in news reporting, reflecting journalists' implicit or explicit preferences and potentially influencing audience perceptions and attitudes.”Media criticism is the act of examining and analyzing what goes on inside the media. Media bias can exist in various forms and can impact how female politicians are portrayed in Nigeria or any other country. Media bias can manifest in several ways, some of them are:

- a. Stereotyping: Female politicians may be subjected to stereotypes or traditional gender roles, leading to biased coverage. They may be portrayed as weak, emotional, or incapable of holding leadership positions, which can undermine their credibility
- a. Focus on appearance: Media may disproportionately focus on the appearance and fashion choices of female politicians, rather than their policies or accomplishments. This emphasis on superficial aspects can overshadow their political abilities.
- b. Underrepresentation: Female politicians may receive less media coverage compared to their male counterparts. This lack of representation can contribute to a skewed perception of their involvement and influence in politics.
- c. Harsh scrutiny: Female politicians may face higher levels of scrutiny and criticism compared to male politicians. They may be judged more harshly for their actions, speech, or personal lives, leading to an unfair portrayal in the media.
- d. Lack of diversity: The voices and perspectives of female politicians from diverse backgrounds may be underrepresented in the media, further reinforcing existing biases and stereotypes.

It is important to consume news from a variety of sources to gain a more balanced understanding of how female politicians are portrayed in Nigeria. Critical media literacy skills can help individuals identify and challenge any bias they encounter in the media. Media bias can stem from a variety of factors, including personal beliefs



and values of journalists, corporate ownership and control, audience preferences, and political pressures. Here are some common causes of media bias along with references and citations to support them:

- a. Journalists' personal beliefs and values: Groseclose (2005) says that "Journalists are human beings with their own perspectives, beliefs, and values, which can unintentionally influence their reporting". Research suggests that journalists tend to have liberal or left-leaning views, which can result in bias in their coverage.
- b. Corporate ownership and control Bagdikian (2004) says that "media outlets are often owned by large corporations with their own interests and agendas". Corporate ownership can influence news coverage by promoting certain narratives that align with their business or political interests.
- c. Audience preferences: Prior (2007) notes that: "media organizations strive to attract and retain viewers, readers, or listeners". As a result, they may tailor their content to appeal to their target audience, leading to bias in reporting. Sensationalism and the desire for higher ratings can influence the selection and presentation of news stories
- d. Political pressures: McChesney (2004) is of the opinion that: "Governments, politicians, and interest groups can exert pressure on media organizations to shape their coverage in a particular way". This can include influencing the framing of stories, suppressing certain viewpoints, or encouraging favorable coverage.

It is important to note that media bias is a complex and multifaceted issue, and the causes mentioned above are not exhaustive. The interplay of these factors can vary across different media outlets and contexts, resulting in a nuanced landscape of bias in media reporting. Many atimes gender bias tend to favor men more because seem to be the one's at the receiving end especially female politicians.

### **Misogyny**

The term "misogyny" according to Merriam-Webster Dictionary was derived from the Greek words "misos," meaning hatred, and "gyne," meaning woman. It gained prominence in feminist discourse during the second wave of feminism in the 1960s and 1970s, as scholars and activists sought to analyze and challenge the deep-seated biases and prejudices that perpetuated gender inequality. "Misogyny can be understood as a system of beliefs, attitudes, and practices that devalue and marginalize women, reinforcing gender hierarchies and limiting women's opportunities and rights." (Allen, 2018) "Misogyny can be understood as a deep-seated and widespread hostility toward women, manifesting in various forms of discrimination, prejudice, and violence, which is rooted in patriarchal systems and seeks to maintain male dominance and control." (Hooks, 2004) Misogyny refers to the hatred, contempt, or prejudice against women or girls.

In the context of gendered images, misogyny can be observed in various ways, such as objectification, sexualization, and the reinforcement of harmful stereotypes. Misogyny is a deep-rooted prejudice, contempt, or hatred towards women or girls. It manifests in various forms, including discriminatory attitudes, behaviors, and systemic practices that perpetuate gender inequality. Misogyny undermines women's rights, restricts their opportunities, and reinforces harmful stereotypes and power imbalances. It can be



observed in personal interactions, cultural norms, societal structures, and online spaces. Challenging misogyny requires promoting gender equality, combating sexist beliefs and behaviors, and creating safe and inclusive environments for women. By addressing misogyny, we can strive towards a more just and equitable society for all genders Here are some examples of misogyny in gendered images:

- a. **Objectification and Sexualization** Glick & Fiske (1996) were of the opinion that “Women are often depicted in media and advertising as objects of sexual desire, emphasizing their physical appearance rather than their abilities, skills, or intellect”. This objectification reduces women to mere objects for the pleasure or consumption of others, perpetuating gender inequality and reinforcing harmful power dynamics.
- b. **Stereotypes and Limited Representations** Ross (2008) says that: “Gendered images often reinforce stereotypes and limit the representations of women”. This can include portraying women as overly emotional, dependent, or solely focused on domestic roles. Such representations not only limit the diversity and complexity of women's experiences but also contribute to societal expectations that restrict their opportunities and perpetuate inequality.
- c. **Violence and Victim-Blaming:** Hall, N et al (1997) are of the opinion that: “Misogynistic images may depict violence against women or perpetuate victim-blaming attitudes”. These portrayals normalize or trivialize violence, contribute to a culture of victim-blaming, and undermine efforts to address gender-based violence and support survivors.
- d. **Double Standards and Pressure:** Fredrickson, B. L et al (1996) say that: “Gendered images often enforce double standards, prescribing different expectations and standards for women compared to men”. Women may face pressure to conform to narrow beauty ideals, maintain a particular body shape, or adhere to traditional gender roles, reinforcing societal expectations and perpetuating gender inequality.

It is important to challenge and critique gendered images that perpetuate misogyny. By promoting diverse and empowering representations of women and advocating for media literacy, we can work towards a more inclusive and equitable society. Stopping gendered misogyny against women requires collective efforts at various levels.

Promoting education and awareness about gender equality and the harmful impacts of misogyny is crucial. This includes integrating gender equality curricula in schools, raising awareness through public campaigns, and fostering dialogue to challenge gender stereotypes and biases. Implementing and enforcing laws and policies that protect women's rights and address gender-based discrimination is essential. This involves strengthening laws against gender-based violence, ensuring equal pay and employment opportunities, and promoting gender equality in all spheres of life. Empowering women to challenge gendered misogyny is vital. This includes promoting women's leadership and participation in decision-making processes, providing support and resources for survivors of gender-based violence, and promoting economic empowerment and equal opportunities for women. Promoting diverse and empowering representations of women in media and popular culture is important in challenging gendered misogyny. Media organizations should be encouraged to adopt ethical guidelines, promote gender-sensitive reporting, and challenge harmful stereotypes.



Engaging men and boys as allies in the fight against gendered misogyny is crucial. Encouraging men to reflect on their own biases, challenging harmful behaviors, and promoting healthy and respectful relationships can contribute to dismantling misogynistic attitudes and practices. Building supportive communities that reject misogyny and provide a safe space for women is essential. This includes fostering networks of support, creating platforms for women's voices to be heard, and promoting solidarity among individuals and organizations working towards gender equality. It is important to recognize that ending gendered misogyny is a long-term and multifaceted process. By combining these approaches and engaging in ongoing efforts, we can create a more inclusive, equitable, and respectful society for all genders.

### **Stereotypes**

Hamilton & Trolier, (1986) say that: "Stereotypes are cognitive structures or mental frameworks consisting of widely held and simplistic beliefs, images, or schemas about social groups, which are applied to individuals within those groups, shaping expectations and perceptions about their attributes, abilities, and behaviors." Stereotypes are generalizations or assumptions made about a particular group of people based on their characteristics, traits, or behaviors. It is important to note that stereotypes are often oversimplified and can perpetuate misconceptions or biases. While it is important to be aware of stereotypes, it is equally crucial to recognize that individuals within a group can have diverse experiences and characteristics that do not conform to the stereotypes associated with their group. Here are a few examples of stereotypes, but it is important to approach them critically and understand that they do not apply to every individual within a group:

- a. "All Asians are good at math" This stereotype suggests that individuals of Asian descent are inherently skilled in mathematics. However, it is a generalization that overlooks the diverse abilities and interests of Asian individuals. It can perpetuate the model minority myth and overlook other talents and strengths individuals may possess.
- b. "Women are not as capable as men in leadership roles" This stereotype assumes that women are less competent or effective in positions of leadership compared to men. However, research has shown that women can equally be successful leaders and gender does not determine leadership abilities.
- c. "All Muslims are terrorists". This stereotype wrongly associates terrorism with the Muslim community as a whole. It disregards the fact that the majority of Muslims are peaceful individuals who do not support or engage in any form of terrorism. It is essential to differentiate between extremist individuals and the broader Muslim population.
- d. "All gamers are socially awkward and have no life." This stereotype assumes that individuals who engage in video games lack social skills and are isolated from society. However, gamers come from diverse backgrounds and can have active social lives, friendships, and successful careers.

It is crucial to recognize that stereotypes can be harmful and perpetuate biases. It is important to approach people as individuals and not make assumptions based on stereotypes, as they can lead to prejudice and discrimination.



Gendered image stereotypes refer to the portrayal of specific gender roles, behaviors, or appearances in media, advertising, and society. These stereotypes can reinforce traditional gender norms and expectations. Here are a few examples of gendered image stereotypes with references:

- a. "Women are primarily concerned with their appearance and beauty." This stereotype suggests that women are primarily focused on their physical appearance and reinforces the idea that their value lies in their looks. It overlooks the diverse interests, skills, and aspirations of women.
- b. "Men are strong and emotionally stoic." This stereotype portrays men as emotionally detached and expects them to suppress their feelings. It can create pressure on men to conform to traditional masculine ideals, which may have negative effects on their mental health and well-being.
- c. "Girls are not as competent in mathematics and science as boys." This stereotype assumes that girls are less capable in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) fields compared to boys. It can discourage girls from pursuing these subjects and contribute to the gender gap in STEM careers.
- d. "Men are natural leaders, while women are better caregivers." This stereotype assigns leadership qualities to men while expecting women to be nurturing and caring. It reinforces gender roles and limits opportunities for women in leadership positions. It's important to challenge and question these gendered image stereotypes to promote gender equality, inclusivity, and to recognize the diverse talents and capabilities of individuals, regardless of their gender.

Gendered image stereotypes are pervasive societal beliefs and expectations regarding the roles, behaviors, and appearances associated with different genders. These stereotypes often reinforce traditional gender norms, perpetuate inequality, and limit individuals' opportunities and self-expression. Common examples include the belief that women are primarily concerned with their appearance, men should be strong and emotionally stoic, girls are not as competent in mathematics and science, and men are natural leaders while women are better caregivers. These stereotypes can have negative consequences on individuals' self-esteem, mental health, and career prospects. Challenging and questioning these stereotypes is crucial for promoting gender equality and creating an inclusive society that recognizes the diverse talents and capabilities of all individuals, regardless of their gender.

## **Outcome**

### **The following outcome should be expected from a research on Gendered Media**

- a. Increased Awareness and Understanding: Research on gendered media can enhance awareness and understanding of the ways in which media representations contribute to gender inequalities, stereotypes, and biases. It can help individuals, policymakers, and media practitioners recognize the impact of gendered media and its implications for society
- b. The Need for a change: By pinpointing these issues, this research has helped to highlight the need for change and prompt discussions about more equitable and inclusive media representations, inspire positive change in media representation, content production, and industry practices. It can stimulate

conversations, mobilize stakeholders, and lead to policy reforms, industry guidelines, and creative interventions that promote gender equality and more inclusive media environments.

- c. This research has helped to highlight the importance of studying gendered media and its potential to drive positive transformations in media representation, societal attitudes, and gender equality.

### **Recommendations on how to improve Gendered image in Nigeria**

Improving the gendered image in Nigeria requires concerted efforts from various stakeholders, including government institutions, civil society organizations, media outlets, and individuals. Here are some strategies that can contribute to improving the gendered image in Nigeria:

- a. Promote gender equality: Implement and enforce policies that promote gender equality and protect women's rights. This includes laws against discrimination, domestic violence, and harmful practices such as female genital mutilation and child marriage.
- b. Education and awareness: Invest in education and awareness campaigns to challenge gender stereotypes and promote a more inclusive understanding of gender roles. This can be done through school curricula, community programs, and media campaigns.
- c. Empower women economically: Support initiatives that empower women economically, such as providing access to financial resources, entrepreneurship training, and mentorship programs. This can help women achieve financial independence and challenge traditional gender roles.
- d. Political representation: Encourage women's participation and representation in politics and decision-making processes. This can be achieved through affirmative action policies, training programs, and support networks for aspiring women leaders.
- e. Media portrayal: Promote positive and non-stereotypical portrayals of women in the media. Encourage media outlets to feature diverse stories that highlight women's achievements and contributions to society.
- f. Engage men and boys: Involve men and boys in gender equality initiatives to challenge harmful gender norms and stereotypes. Promote gender-sensitive parenting and education that teaches boys to respect and value women's rights.
- g. Address cultural and traditional practices: Address cultural and traditional practices that perpetuate gender inequality and discrimination. Engage community leaders, religious institutions, and traditional authorities to promote gender equality and challenge harmful practices.
- h. Support women's organization Provide support and resources to women's organizations and NGOs working towards gender equality. These organizations play a vital role in advocacy, raising awareness, and providing support services to women.

- i. Data collection and research: Collect and analyze gender-disaggregated data to identify gaps and monitor progress. Research on gender issues can provide evidence-based insights for policymaking and programming.
- j. International cooperation: Collaborate with international organizations, such as the United Nations and regional bodies, to exchange best practices, access funding, and leverage expertise in promoting gender equality.

Improving the gendered image in Nigeria is a long-term process that requires sustained commitment and collaboration. Each individual has a role to play in challenging stereotypes, promoting equality, and advocating for women's rights.

### **Conclusion**

Female politicians in Nigeria face various challenges but have made significant contributions to governance and policy-making. They often confront gender stereotypes, underrepresentation, and biases in public perception. Despite these obstacles, female politicians demonstrate resilience and determination, serving as role models for aspiring politicians and advocates for women's rights. Media portrayal of female politicians can be influenced by biases and stereotypes, but efforts have been made to improve representation and focus on their achievements and policy agendas. Nigeria's cultural and religious diversity also play a role in shaping perceptions of women in politics. Overall, while progress has been made, there is still work to be done to ensure greater gender equality and women's empowerment in Nigerian politics.

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