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Empowering Women for Excellence Initiative
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EWEI TO CONDUCT A ONE-YEAR STUDY ON FEMALE STUDENTS' ADVANCEMENTS IN STEM ACROSS FIVE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN KADUNA STATE, NIGERIA.

Kaduna, Nigeria – Empowering Women for Excellence Initiative will conduct a one-year study on the prevalence of female students in their final year of secondary school who progress to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields in higher institutions.

The study aims to surface the contributing factors that either support or challenge the students' expected advancement into STEM careers; first step being their enrollment into STEM fields in higher institutions. It will be conducted among 1,000 female students currently in senior secondary school three (SS3) across five Local Government Areas in Kaduna state, Nigeria starting on the [International Day of Women and Girls in Science](#) 11 February 2020.

This study is designed to inform the general public, development agencies and promote the full and equal access to and participation in science for women and girls, and further achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

Today, just [30 per cent](#) of researchers worldwide are women, and only 35 per cent of all students enrolled in STEM related fields of study are women. Globally, female students' enrolment is particularly low in ICT (3 per cent), natural science, mathematics and statistics (5 per cent) and in engineering, manufacturing and construction (8 per cent). ([UN IDWGS 2020](#)).

"Science and innovation can bring life-changing benefits, especially for those who are furthest behind – such as women and girls living in remote areas, the elderly and people with disabilities. Science will also be essential for decent work and jobs of the future, including in the green economy, and it can create a market for women's innovative ideas and products."

(UN Women Executive Director, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka).

EWEI has exhibited her commitment to promoting the advancement of women and girls in science through our [Educational Subsidy Programme](#) supporting adolescent girls to complete their secondary education and providing a six-month internship as they await their enrolment into higher institutions.

Our very [first ESP STEM Ambassador, Grace Okunola](#) is a great example of this commitment and this study is a further step in strengthening EWEI's efforts to inform for action.

EWEI will work closely with partners, state actors, parents and communities throughout the implementation of the study and will publish the study's findings on the International Day of Women and Girls in Science in 2021.

Empowering Women for Excellence Initiative is a Non-Governmental Organisation founded in 2008. Our **mission** is to provide multi-sectoral interventions towards the empowerment of girls and women and our **vision** is to achieve empowerment through enlightenment. We work towards empowering women through Capacity Building, Information Dissemination, Advocacy and Cross Cutting Community Service Projects.

Our objectives are to:

- Inspire girls and women to be the best they can be and aim for excellence through capacity building and mentoring
- Support the development of social and emotional skills including self-esteem, leadership and assertiveness in our beneficiaries
- Provide information and capacity building on health, political, economic and social issues through our various information dissemination platforms and spaces
- Advocate for and encourage Girl-Child education to relevant stakeholders
- Advocate for and encourage higher enrollment, retention and completion rates for girls and women in science and information technology education
- Encourage civic participation of girls and women and contribute to both political and legislative process through capacity building, civic education and advocacy
- Work towards accomplishing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Advocate for progressive state budgeting practices and gender mainstreaming in legislation
- Support UNSCR 1325 and 2250 recognising and promoting the role of women and youth in peace building and conflict transformation.

For more information:

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