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## CULTURE, MEDIA & FILM | RESEARCH ARTICLE

# Female-dominated informal labour sector and family (in) stability: The interface between reproduction and production

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**Abstract:** The achievement gender equality and the empowerment of all women (SDG-5) could be slow considering the African traditional cultural expectation of women on exclusive home management, and reproduction, in the face of chagrin economic drive for family income augmentation. The study examined the nexus between women's role in managing the family, their traditional role of reproduction and expected procreative activities. The research adopted a qualitative research approach with in-depth interviews to obtain data from women entrepreneurs in the informal labour sector in a purposively selected local Adire textile industry in Abeokuta, Nigeria. A snowballing approach was adopted in the selection of the 9 participants that voluntarily agree to participate in the interview. Data were analysed through content analysis and thematic analysis. Findings revealed that the involvement of women in the Adire textile have no negative effects on their families, rather, it has enhanced stability. Respondents have been able to supplement finances at home, the practices

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### PUBLIC INTEREST STATEMENT

Gender roles in African societies have been influenced by patriarchy to confine women to be homemaker and men as the provider of family need. Recent economic meltdowns, high cost of living and economic hardship have bought some alterations to the hitherto designed roles, with women also assuming economic roles. Despite the gendered stereotype, women's involvement in *adire* making in the Nigerian informal sector provides them with income that helps them supplement the finances of their spouses. The study found that despite family responsibilities, women's economic activities in the informal sector had positive impacts on family stability. This research, therefore, stresses the need for the adoption and enforcement of policies and legislations that will empower women in the informal sector to enhance both the quality and quantity of their production, thus strengthening them to enhance their family stability and societal stability in extension.