

**FEDERATION OF INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
GLOBAL GOVERNANCE AND WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION**

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ACCEPTANCE

This is to attest that this dissertation is accepted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of the degree of Master of Science (M.Sc.) in International Relations in the Department of Political Science and International Relations, College of Leadership Development Studies, Covenant University, Ota, Nigeria.

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DECLARATION

I, FOLORUNSHO, WISDOM OLADIMEJI (14AH017294) declare that this research was carried out by me under the supervision of Dr. Faith O. Olanrewaju of the Department of Political Science and International Relations, College of Leadership Development Studies, Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria. I attest that this dissertation has not been presented either wholly or partially for the award of any degree elsewhere. All sources of data, scholarly information used in this dissertation are duly acknowledged.

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CERTIFICATION

We certify that this dissertation titled **“FEDERATION OF INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION, GLOBAL GOVERNANCE AND WOMEN PARTICIPATION”** is original research carried out by **FOLORUNSHO WISDOM OLADIMEJI (14AH017294)** in the Department of Political Science and International Relations, College of Leadership Development Studies, Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria under the supervision of Dr. Faith Olanrewaju. We have examined and found this work acceptable as part of the requirements for the award of Master of Science (M.Sc.) in International Relations.

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this dissertation to the Almighty God for his protection, provision, guidance, love, mercies, and great favour throughout my academic programme.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AFC	Asian Football Confederation
AFCON	African Cup of Nations
CAF	Confederation of African Football
CECAFA	The Council for East and Central Africa Football Associations
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CONCACAF	Confederation of North, Central and Carribean Association Football
CONMEBOL	Confederacion Sudamericana de Futbol
EU	European Union
FIFA	Federation International de Football Association
IOC	The International Olympic Committee
NFF	Nigerian Football Federation
OFC	Oceania Football Confederation
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
UEFA	Union of European Football Association
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
USFSA	Union des sociétés Françaises des Sports Athletiques
USMNT	United States Men’s National Team
USWNT	United States Women’s National Team
WHO	World Health Organisation

ABSTRACT

Sport is traditionally considered a masculine activity; hence side-lining women from participating in football activities as well as being represented in the sports management hierarchy. As a result, efforts have been made by FIFA to improve on women's participation in sports, football inclusively. Therefore, this study examined the impacts of the Federation International of Football Association on women's participation in football in Nigeria. This study is anchored on the Feminist Theory which proposed that there should be equal opportunities for both genders in all spheres of life and gender should not be a qualification for roles. This study adopted the qualitative research method and utilized the descriptive research design. For this study, primary data is retrieved through interviews and secondary data was retrieved from already established works such as academic journals, books, newspapers, reports, and online materials. This study employed thematic analysis as the method of data analysis. Religion and cultural norms are the major factors hindering women in participating in football despite the fact that FIFA has adopted strategies such as televising female matches since 2015 as well as pay. The study observed the strategies adopted by FIFA such as women mentorship, inclusion of a woman in every federation have proved effective. This study also found out that the Nigerian Football Federation has put in measures to improve women's football in Nigeria by televising female matches and creating more competitions such as the Aisha Buhari cup to promote its popularity. The study recommends that there should be more enlightenment on the game of football to both parents and children, this is to promote the interest of girls, girls are encouraged to pursue other careers but not the game of football. This study concludes that the existing and evidence of low participation of women in football shows the lack of prioritizing the game of football by the global body.

Keywords: *FIFA, football, footballers, governance, sports, women participation.*