

## Women in Surveying (Nigeria)

**Benedicta UGWULEBO, Nigeria**

**Key words:** Capacity building

### **SUMMARY**

The peer review topic entails generally the vision of women in surveying in developing strategies to bring about more fundamental and adaptive changes also to achieve cooperate mission, vision and goal in surveying. The review introduces briefly the history of Surveying and its aims and objectives in Nigeria. The value of surveying, and how effective it is. Also their roles and duties, and the dimension to be taken do enable the country (Nigeria) build a better capacity. The topic women in surveying in Nigeria entails the challenges, female, surveyors face in Nigeria from the pre-colonial period. The role women in surveying can play in changing the society thus helping in building the capacity.

Also the rate of how female in surveying has gotten into the profession. Summary is drawn and recommendation made on how this topic can effectively and efficiently change our society Nigeria.

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### **BRIEF HISTORY SURVEY IN NIGERIA**

The Nigeria Institution of surveyor's is one of the oldest organized professional Bodies in Nigeria. It started in 1934 as the "Licensed Surveyors Association" under the able leadership of the late Nationalist, Herbert Macaulay, in 1960, the name was changed to the "Land Surveyors Association of Nigeria" with the late Surv. C. T. Olumide as chairman. The current name "The Nigerian Institution of Surveyors" was adopted at the Enugu Conference one of the States in Nigeria in 1966 with the late Surv. C. T. Olumide elected as its first president, Late C. T. Olumide is honored every year by the Institution with a memorial lecture.

### **ITS AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The Nigeria Institution of Surveyors is the professional umbrella Organization for all surveyors in the country, whether in private practice, government or Academic.

Its objectives includes presenting generally, the view of surveying profession in Nigeria, seeking the professional well-being of its members maintaining the integrity of the profession and enhancing its status, providing and supporting the medium of the training of surveyors and

improvement of survey techniques, Maintaining the highest standard of professional practice and conduct among its members, interacting and advising Government on legislative matters as they affect the profession and generally among its members and surveyors of other countries.

I also comprehend that during the colonial era, surveyor and mapping occupied such a crucial and very important position in the public affairs of the federation of Nigeria and indeed all other African countries to the extent that the Deputy Governor General of Nigeria was also the Surveyor-General of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. It came to my knowledge that some of the objectives of the organization is to sensitize the general public on the need to engage, the service of a surveyor in order to minimize developmental complaints, another is to develop the interest of our young female students in the surveying profession thorough sponsorships and other incentives.

## **THE VALUE OF SURVEYING IN NIGERIA**

- The need why the country should value and appreciate the survey and  
Its body.
- The surveyor's role in the country
- Dimensions to be taken.

The country Nigerian should be very appreciable for having produced, surveyors of high integrities, “SURVEYORS REGISTRATION COUNCIL OF NIGERIA DECREE 1989” (1989 No.44)

(CODE OF ETHICS IN THE SURVEY PROFESSION) commencement: 18<sup>th</sup> march 1997; it is hereby notified for public information that the surveyors council of Nigeria (in the code referred to as the council) in furtherance of the aims and objects of the council and they maintained of the highest standards of the professional conduct, etiquette and discipline in terms of the provisions of the decree, has made the code of ethics of professional conduct in the survey profession. (SURCON) the surveyor council of Nigeria, which regulates the profession in Nigeria enforces high ethical standard for all surveyors, this has enable the Nigeria surveyors to practice the profession with high integrity, further more the training of surveyors’ in our various institution places a lot of emphasis on character, diligence and integrity, the council (SURCON) established by CAP 425 LAW OF THE FEDERATION OF NIGERIA 1990, has one of its functions under section 4 paragraph (b) of the duty of determining what standards of knowledge and skill are to be attained by persons seeking to become registered as members of the professions of surveying and reviewing this standards from time to time as circumstance may require. The people who by all means are the “Bedrock of all meaningful Development” in the country, they are the only body who can provide, mapping data for databases, geospatial data for cadastre to topography, natural resources, transportation, communication, utilities criminal emergency management as well as border management.

The value of surveying in Nigeria is so wide because surveyors do come in all aspect of life, meaning that opting out of surveying is not available option for Nigerians and its government, it is imperative therefore that Nigerian government focus on creating the environment for effective and beneficial participation in the surveying system as opposed to the passive involvement, that has contributed to the marginalization of Nigeria as a country.

Today's successful surveyors manage continuous change.

They think strategically or do system thinking, surveyors are trained to work systematically, this is based on strategic development i.e. surveyors tackle problems in survey "from whole to part" this means that they do things in accordance, principles are duly followed, rising from reconnaissance, traverse calculation, computations, analyzing mapping and contouring, etc, it is only those who do system thinking that does things accordingly, which requires the ability to think synergically and do long term strategic planning and management.

The job of a surveyor today is that of a leader and not just a surveyor in the field, this is because the profession must not sit on the fence but join the fence of politics and get to the corridor of power. Surveying takes lead almost in ninety-nine percent in every aspect of life. The editorial (2005) of GIM international magazine captioned "Disaster" lamented on the importance

Of where you are on this world and not who or what you are, the planet we are not equally safe in every corner. There would be no problem if governments were able to take necessary measures to contain outcomes of possible floods, and other ecological disasters. Encroachments within right-of-ways in flooding and other ecological disaster. The editorial comment of Geomatic World (GW) 2005, titled "engage with policy makers or become minor slaves" in the caption of the royal institute of chartered surveyors 2004 Christmas lecture. Professor Holger Magel, then president of FIG, international federation of surveyors, treated in attendance to a stimulating tour d'horizon of where surveying stands in Europe. The theme of his lecture was "**SURVEYORS AND POLITICS, the need for dialogue**". Magel believes that the reason why surveyors seem to be sinking without trace is our lack of political clout with policy makers, and that 'we serve the urgent needs of the society but surveying and mapping has been marginalized' in fact getting steady for the train system would gear up the

**'7 points agenda of president of Nigeria, Umaru Musa Yar'adua:**

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- Power and Energy: Adequate power supply to facilitate industrialization.
- Food security: Agriculture and Water resources to ensure adequate food supply for local consumption and export.
- Wealth creation: Diversification of revenue base and increased production to provide jobs.
- Transport sector: Development of rail, road, air and water transportation to facilitate movement of persons, goods, and services
- Land Reforms :Reviews of existing land laws to ensure equitable use of the nations land assets for socio-development
- Security : Adequate attention to the provision of security of lives and property
- Education: Reforms of the education sector to improve skills and enhance standards. Failure to appreciate this means that the surveyor's will become obsolete in the way he operates.

## **THE SURVEYORS ROLE OF NIGERIA**

(A) 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.

(B) Roads-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.

(C) 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.

(D) Housing – Surveyor need to provide maps and data input for GIS various settlement which would aid the government in providing materials for regularization of files, ensure guidance on the location of health and educational facilities as well as the location of police stations.

## **DIMENSIONS TO BE TAKEN**

There is need to upgrade the survey department at the local government and state level i.e. by employing more survey training and exposing them to better working environment locally and overseas.i.e. and also help equipped our higher institutions and universities with survey instruments and GIS software’s to enable the young coming one to be better enlighten. Also possibilities would be to take an inventory of existing maps both large and small scale converting the country, this is with a view to embarking on a fresh mapping exercise or updating.

There is a need to find out what effort are being made by other developing countries and look at best practice in advanced countries in order to see what lessons can be learned and adopted or adapted for Nigeria development i.e. how to make regulations of surveys when carrying out to be more easy and what efforts are being made in their survey departments field of study, (practical's), the need to make it easier and faster during field work (modern instruments to be introduced).

### **WOMEN IN SURVEYING, (NIGERIA)**

Nigerian women are fast taking the front portion in their chosen careers and fields of endeavor, without engaging in a debate of cause and effect of the impact of female surveyors. The bottom line is that women has not benefited much from the positive trends of surveying in Nigeria and at best, has been a marginal participant.

Today it is clear that surveying is not working for the benefit of the majority of women, while surveying has increased opportunities for economic growth and development in some areas there has been an increase in the disparities and in equalities experienced especially in women.

It would be naive, to think that the women in surveying in Nigerian is so unique from his counterparts in other parts of the world, far from that the women in surveying needs to operates with the same variable as his colleagues. Thus for example, a woman surveyor who was the first woman surveyor General of the Federation Republic of Nigeria in the whole of the Common Wealth Late Surv. (Mrs.) Yinka Adekoya.

### **CHALLENGES, FEMALE SURVEYOR, NIGERIA**

Education – Pre Colonial education was essentially functional to enable one to obtain a skill to earn a living, commenting on this professor (Mrs.) F. Ogunsheye, point out that until a girl had mastered an occupation, by which “she was not fit to marry”. The situation of women in



education which is the foundation of the situation of women in the economy, has, contrary propagated conceptions, remained dismal.

Nevertheless, General Olusegun Obasanjo's government did recognize the necessary for educating women and encouraging them to take an interest in politics "Gone are the days" he once said "when the rightful place of the woman is in the kitchen, because it is now universally accepted that when one educates a woman he educated a nation. (Daily Times June 24 1978p.40). (The role of Nigerian women in national development since Independence: An overview. (ifeyinwa iweriebor.

Similarly a cursory glance at University admission figures, indicates that roughly throughout the country, female undergraduate accurate for 30% of the enrolment in education, 28% in Arts, 30% in Sciences, 80% in medicine 20% in Agriculture, 12% in law and 2% in Engineering and surveying. In fact in terms of actual numbers there has been little increase in surveying in particular.

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 be 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 and 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 world wide. 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 s “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 hardworking and of great commitment, she must have an enduring spirit because clients want their job delivered as early as possible.

### **THE ROLE WOMEN IN SURVEYING (NIGERIA)**

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.

Then as a woman in surveying you must be wise. The woman in surveying must turn the numerous challenges to advantages through serious determination and hard work, when it comes to community relations in a hostile environment, the soft-spoken talent of woman comes into play, matters are settled amicably and this makes her work easier and faster. Also in a hostage taking environment (Niger Delta) the involvement of a wise woman in surveying profession cannot be under-estimated, she intervned as a mother and shows her loving concern, which most of the time melt the heart of those involved that way serious problems get solutions earlier than can be imagined, because most of the community representatives are male folks they naturally have soft spots for women, then they have for male surveyors.

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 issues 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.

Coalition for positive change in the Surveying world can show how surveying has tried to create a coalition especially between the Government, Education system and the survey as a body.

The active involvement of the Government should be in-

- improving bureaucratic governance
- Laying Educational, Physical and Technological infrastructures and
- Actively supporting the women in surveying sector to adapt and adopt technology and meet the transitional cost going global.

In order to achieve sustainable development the women in surveying should be involved in the provision of geospatial data which is necessary for planning and execution of associated projects so that development projects would-

- (1) Improve people's health by reducing their exposure to environmental hazards both indoors and out doors like urban air pollution, water borne and vector borne diseases and toxic substances.
- (2) Enhance the living conditions of the urban and rural poor people who depend on land water, forest and biodiversity by helping them secure access to resources and create sustainable environment
- (3) Reduce people's vulnerability while providing quick response to environmental hazards such as natural disaster, desertification collapse of bridges and houses.
- (4) Minimize rural-urban drift by undertaking phased development of the Rural and urban areas using geospatial data that are current and reliable.

## **WOMEN IN SURVEYING PROFESSION RATE, NIGERIA.**

Surveying particularly had for decades being monopolized by the men but today the story is quite different, despite the challenges women faces in surveying as a profession, the hardworking committed and the winners have achieved a lot, 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 first women surveyor-General of the federal Republic of Nigeria in the whole of the common wealth-Late Surv. Mrs .Yinka Adekoya known as “SUPER GIRL”.
- 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.

## **CONCLUSION**

At the top, however, Surveying requires leadership men and women of vision, who are able to set long term goals, develop strategies to bring about more fundamental and adaptive changes and above all, motivate increase independent, highly knowledgeable and geographically dispersed people to achieve corporate mission, vision and goals in the field (surveying)

Surveying has impacted the nature and plaction of development, 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.

This review has lighted some important dimensions of women in surveying:

- Women in Surveying are here to stay.
- The impact however, has been uneven with half of the women experiencing limited material benefits and significant negative fallouts, yet women in surveying are still marching on and being driven by: rationalist knowledge.
- They go about technological innovation, while Surveying poses grave risks, including the marginalization of women in Surveying it presents greater opportunities than ever before in human history to improve welfare and leap fogging.
- Opting out and radicalism would not be viable response be way of better government, and survey orientation to ensure that the female surveyors increase in the day to day activities, also creating an enabling environment for the development and adoption of modern, new technologies, and strengthening their networks.



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## **BIOGRAPHY NOTES**

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She is a pupil surveyor recently undergoing her national youth service corps (N.Y.S.C), an associate member of Nigerian institution of surveyors (NIS) also a member of the women-in-surveying.

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