



# The Relevance of Technical and Vocational Education and Training Programmes to Local Job Markets and Women's Empowerment in Nigeria

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## Introduction

Technical and Vocational Educational and Training (TVET) functions as a fundamental resource for socioeconomic development within Nigeria since it addresses underemployment and unemployment challenges. Social beliefs and cultural barriers combined with inadequate employment opportunities have been seen to negatively affect women. The main objective of this paper is to explore the role of TVET in eliminating barriers to employment while developing qualified job candidates and for female workers to enter predominantly male-oriented education and TVET fields.

## TVET and Local Job Markets

The purpose of TVET programmes is to develop skilled professionals for important industries which include agriculture and manufacturing together with construction and ICT. Employability programs receive support from work-based learning opportunities which include apprenticeships and internships. The educational effectiveness of these pathways is constrained by funding challenges alongside outdated curricula and weak industry-program connection systems. The Nigerian government implements TVET programs through agribusiness-focused rural programs and information and communications technology-based training initiatives.

## TVET and Women Empowerment

TVET gives women the tools they need to stand on their own economically and that starts with the practical skills they gain. These skills-in tailor work, cosmetology and information technology, among others-put women in touch with profitable job opportunities and entrepreneurial prospects. The Women Employment program and affirmative action plans help women break into engineering and renewable energy, and challenge the stereotypes that hold them back. That opens up a world of economic possibilities.

## Challenges and Recommendations

The TVET sector faces challenges such as cultural resistance, limited funding, inadequate infrastructure, and lack of workforce connection. The government & private sector should work towards curricula developing, introduction of inclusive laws, and forging partnerships with industries and partnership at community levels. Investment in infrastructure funding will lift the majority of women in programs and strengthen school/business partnerships. Breaking down myths and barriers around the value of TVET can help promote participation in a more welcoming manner.

## Conclusion

The TVET programs in Nigeria has enormous economic impact, boosts female empowerment and job loss mitigation. Although challenges such as financial difficulties and societal prejudices continue to obstruct the program as it unfolds. To achieve further expansion of TVET, strategic financing and policy that cater to gender needs as well enhanced access points with active support from stakeholders are imperative. This results into an environment for successful nation building at all levels

**Keywords:** Job Market, Nigeria, TVET, Vocational Training, Women Empowerment