

Addressing Social Inequality Through the Establishment of Arts and Crafts Training Centre in Ekiti State, Nigeria

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One of the greatest challenges facing the government and society in Nigeria today is that of rising income and gender inequality. Ekiti is an agrarian State. The economic base of the State is weak, and requires economic diversification. This study therefore, proposes and analyses the implementation of an arts and crafts training centre for women and youths with focus on reducing gender inequality, and promoting economic growth and diversification.

The arts and crafts centre will comprise different sections, including art production, art instruction and art research. It will train on various artistry and artisan works such as furniture making, plumbing, baking, sculpturing and welding. The focus on the chosen respondents, women and youths would bring about women empowerment and youth employment, respectively. The project would employ sustainability approaches, including community mobilization, cooperation and group financing.

The project would boost indigenous hands-on artistic and artisan knowledge, including increase in employment of out-of-work artists and artisans. This would create more jobs, reduce inequality, and add to the growth of the local economy. It would improve the lives of Ekiti women and youths not only to ensure their well-being but also to level the playing field in the socio-economic space. It would also help to address sustainable development goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 8 and 10.

If achieved, the arts and crafts training centre for women and youth would be a sustainable approach to social inclusiveness. It would reduce youth idleness, reduce social unrest, increase participation and leap people out of the clutches of poverty. Productive employment will not only provide increased income earnings but also bring about a healthy, well coordinated and self-reliant grassroots people which can to a large extent increase the state of happiness of the people. Given the expected outcomes, it would be strongly recommended that youths and women across other local government areas and communities of the State and beyond be engaged, be empowered and gainfully employed as they, particularly the youths, constitute the most productive sect of any society. Also, the arts and crafts training centre and similar empowerment schemes can be modeled across Ekiti State and other States of the country to foster transformative and sustainable national development.