

**WOMEN LEADERSHIP AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT****Oluyemisi Omobola AGBOOLA, PhD**

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**Abstract**

This study examined the influence of women's leadership on sustainable development in selected public institutions in Nigeria. The increasing emphasis on inclusive governance and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has heightened scholarly interest in understanding the role of women leaders in driving sustainable development outcomes. Guided by Stakeholder Theory, the study explored how women's leadership contributes to sustainable development through governance effectiveness and SDG implementation effectiveness. A survey research design was adopted, and data were collected from 419 respondents drawn from selected federal and state public institutions across Nigeria. A structured questionnaire served as the primary instrument for data collection, while Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modelling (PLS-SEM) was employed for data analysis. The findings revealed that women's leadership had a positive and significant influence on sustainable development outcomes. Governance effectiveness and SDG implementation effectiveness also exerted significant positive effects on sustainability outcomes, with SDG implementation effectiveness emerging as the strongest predictor. Furthermore, the model explained 64.2% of the variation in sustainability outcomes, indicating strong explanatory power. Based on these findings, the study concluded that women's leadership serves as an important catalyst for sustainable development when supported by effective governance structures and robust SDG implementation frameworks. The study recommends greater representation of women in leadership positions, stronger governance mechanisms, and deeper integration of SDG objectives into institutional practices. It contributes to the literature on leadership, governance, and sustainability by providing empirical evidence from the Nigerian public sector.

**Keywords:** Women's Leadership, Sustainable Development, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Governance Effectiveness, SDG Implementation Effectiveness, Stakeholder Theory, Nigeria, PLS-SEM.