PREFACE

Among many factors that have contributed to a revolutionary shift in public work domain in hodiernal times, the one has been vitally festinating the shift is women's intervention. Women are omnipresent in almost all domains of work that were originally considered male bastions. More so, they hold positions, which are more challenging than they were before. To stress the obvious, the research problem has arisen as a result of the increasing propensity of women, especially of longtime homemakers, to pursue career in public sphere. It seeks to ferret out diverse issues associated with women's 'presence' in workplace: issues that concern not only workplace, but also their career, family, identity, zeal, commitment, pressure and prospects.

Apart from having a comprehensive exposition of pertinent theoretical as well as epistemological assumptions, a significant portion of the thesis is rooted in the experience and insights of women professionals engaged in four sites of work. This is a thesis about women integrally associated with the law enforcing agency, health, academics and administration. Drawing heavily on theory and empiricism, this academic exercise ettles to produce something relevant to the ambit of 'sociology of work' and gender.

There are very few subjects in contemporary times on which so much is written by so many scholars from different walks of life as 'gender'. Yet, so much still remains to be discerned and delineated to make 'gender and work' a central concern. It is hoped, the modest endeavour on the part of the researcher to dovetail 'sociology of work' and 'gender' will be able to excite all readers: amateurs and professionals.

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