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Paper title: "Access to Higher Education in Nigeria: Exploring the Challenges Faced and Pathways Used by six (6) Female Students to Challenge Inequity"

Higher education benefits both the individual and society. Hence, it is imperative for any country that desires growth and development to ensure it is equitably accessible to all. However, disparity still exists in Nigeria, especially concerning the female gender. Therefore, this study aims to explore the challenges faced and the pathways used by some females (being an equity-deserving group) to combat prejudice in accessing higher education in Nigeria. The qualitative case study design involved six (6) female students who were selected with a purposive sampling technique. Data were collected using the semi-structured interview, conducted via the WhatsApp application's video call and text-chatting. Grounded in the community cultural wealth theory, data were analyzed thematically. The findings reveal that financial constraint is the main challenge encountered by the participants. Further, findings show that participants employed some forms of cultural capital such as aspirational capital, familial capital, and spiritual capital to challenge the status quo preventing them from accessing higher education. The study concludes that the government should reduce poverty and expand the breadth of the student loan scheme initiatives to accommodate more deserving students. It further suggests that educational stakeholders, especially teachers should provide critical mentoring pedagogy to their students.