DEDICATION

THIS THESIS IS DEDICATED TO THE LOVING MEMORY OF

MY FATHER

THE LATE FINBARR NNANNA NNABUGWU

A SPECIAL MAN WITH A SPECIAL FEMINIST THOUGHT
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It is with all sense of humility that I acknowledge the very important role-played by my Promoter Professor Louis Molamu in enabling me to achieve a lost dream. This man of honor deserves very special thanks and God’s blessings. Many thanks go to all staff of the University of South Africa especially Professor Louwrens Pretorius, Dr Carol Allais and Professor Jan Pretorius who in their kindness revealed that beings in their natural setting are caring species irrespective of color, creed, sex, status or nationality.

I wish to use this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to my mentor Professor Mere. N. Kisekka who, despite setting me out on this journey in 1989, abandoned me unexpectedly to take up another employment but remains committed to my welfare. Words are not enough to begin assessing the commitment of my very special friends and family Dr and Mrs Bunmi Ajayi to see that this dream and other dreams come to pass. In the “light of Truth” my children and I remain indebted to you and ask that the Creator reward you for your works on planet Earth. A special thanks goes to my research assistants, Evelyn Silverbour, Charles Bankole Otesanya, Theresa Makabu, I.K Madugwulike, Yetunde Afolabi and my very special sample LADY M who, by the end of this thesis, became part of my family, a friend and justification for the thesis. I remember my friends Andre Irvin and Dr Anke who went with me to some of my study samples in Zaria and Lagos. A special thanks goes to Pedzisani Muthlabani in Botswana whom I consider as a practical feminist.

To Francis, I say thank you for your special role in meeting this dream. My tears of joy goes for my wonderful children Bisoye, Bukky, and Bankole Otesanya, this journey became a long one but you were the driving force. To my grandson Anthony for reminding me that NEPA and my glasses were available to read.

My gratitude goes to the Government of Botswana for allowing me to officially use data collected from my friends and samples in Francistown and Gaborone. My sincere gratitude goes to those wonderful women and men who shared their life stories and whom society could be kinder to.
I also take this opportunity to thank Bola Saheed who tirelessly analyzed the data in an electricity unfriendly country like Nigeria of today. Lastly, but most importantly, is the expression of honor to the first feminist, Mary the mother of Jesus.
DECLARATION

I declare that A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF PROSTITUTES IN NIGERIA AND BOTSWANA is my work and that all the sources that I have used or quoted have been indicated and acknowledged by means of complete references.

_______________________                                                _________________________
SIGNATURE                                DATE

MRS B NNABUGWU-OTESANYA
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# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

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<tr>
<td>AIDS</td>
<td>Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBO</td>
<td>Community Based Organizations</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIV</td>
<td>Human Immune Deficiency Virus</td>
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<tr>
<td>NGO’s</td>
<td>Non – Governmental Organizations</td>
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<td>STD</td>
<td>Sexually Transmitted Disease</td>
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<tr>
<td>STI</td>
<td>Sexually Transmitted Infections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
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<td>UNAIDS</td>
<td>Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS</td>
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<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
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<td>UNFPA</td>
<td>United Nations Population Fund</td>
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<td>UNIFEM</td>
<td>United Nations Fund for Women</td>
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<td>CSW</td>
<td>Commercial sex workers</td>
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ABSTRACT

This study attempts to understand prostitution from their definition of the situation. It differs in its method from other studies on prostitution in that the investigation was based on the prostitutes’ own perspectives as interpreted by the researcher using the interpretative epistemological tradition. A comparative analysis of prostitution in two economically stable African Countries, namely Nigeria and Botswana was made.

This study investigated society’s perception of prostitutes and how it impacts upon their empowerment and emancipation as vulnerable members of the society and their participation in prevention and control of sexually transmitted infection including HIV/AIDS. Also the role of governments and individuals in creating and sustaining prostitution, an extensive insight to the modus operandi of prostitution and suggestions on how best to address prostitution in society, were discussed.

A triangulated methodology of three hundred and twenty five sexworkers (325) that includes a quantitative study of two hundred and five sex workers complimented with a qualitative study of one hundred and twenty sex workers participating in focus group discussion and case studies informed the study.

The findings of the research suggest that in the prostitutes’ own definition of the situation; prostitutes contribute to the maintenance of societal equilibrium, the society creates and sustains prostitution. Economic need rather than lack of morals creates prostitutes and their situation of vulnerability as women is being reinforced by their status as prostitutes. Violence from partners that includes the police and the inability to reprimand their clients, are some hazards of prostitution and these result in their mobility and creates a challenge in adequately addressing the issue of prostitution in society, including their limited participation in the control of STDs.

Respondents in Botswana had a very good knowledge of STI’s /HIV/AIDS and had no difficulties in going to hospital in the event of any STD’s as compared with Nigerian
respondents. The Nigerian respondents’ indulged in self-medication with antibiotics and traditional herbs mixed in local gin before and after a sexual act, rather than go to hospitals.

The research findings should assist the government and international community’s policies and programmes aimed at addressing prostitution and STDs/HIV/AIDS.